



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

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September 27, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: *Urgent:* Temporary Blackout for Varicella Vaccine Shipments

The purpose of this memo is to notify providers of an upcoming blackout in shipping of varicella products. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently notified us that because of changes in their vaccine ordering system, there will be a blackout period during which they will not be accepting orders for varicella and MMRV vaccines. (MMRV is currently available for our local health department providers.) The CDC requested that we alert our providers of this blackout in order for you to plan accordingly.

The CDC will not be accepting orders for varicella and MMRV vaccine between October 7, 2010 and October 28, 2010. Providers will need to assess inventories and order, if necessary, to ensure that they have enough varicella on hand during this time period. **Orders received after 3 P.M. on October 6, 2010 cannot be filled until after this blackout.**

Because the blackout is out of the control of the NCIP, we may receive additional information from the CDC, and we will share updates with providers as soon as they become available. We appreciate your patience, and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Questions and concerns should be addressed by contacting the NCIP Help Desk, 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maelyn Powell Timika Poston Vaccine Manufacturers
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