

# **El Dorado County Public Health Division Change in Vaccination Policies, October 1, 2012**

## **Background**

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently issued a directive to county health departments regarding administration of immunizations. The CDC's new mandate stipulates that effective October 1, 2012 health departments can no longer use Federally-provided vaccines for people who have private health insurance that covers vaccinations.

## **How will this Impact El Dorado County?**

The El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Division cannot offer Federally-provided vaccines to people who have private health insurance that covers vaccinations. Beginning October 1, 2012, Public Health will implement a new screening process for people seeking immunizations. Questions will be asked to determine if individuals are eligible to receive vaccines through Public Health or whether they should be referred to their private doctor's office for services.

## **Does this mean that Public Health will stop giving Immunizations?**

No.

## **How will Public Health offer vaccinations?**

Public Health will continue to offer Federally-provided vaccines by appointment and through community-based vaccination clinics as follows:

- For people who do not have health insurance
- For underinsured people (those whose health insurance does not cover vaccinations)
- For the general public during seasonal flu vaccination clinics
- For fully insured individuals seeking vaccines during public health response activities, including:
  - Disease outbreak response
  - Disaster relief efforts
  - Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness

## **Are there exceptions to the new vaccination policy?**

Yes. The seasonal flu vaccine is exempted from the CDC directive; therefore Public Health will still offer low-cost community flu vaccination clinics for the general public. In addition, health departments may use Federally-provided vaccine for the general public (regardless of insurance status) during disaster relief efforts, disease outbreak response, as part of emergency preparedness training exercises and mass vaccination campaigns, and in other situations as deemed necessary to protect the community.

## **What is the definition of fully- and under-insured?**

The CDC defines “fully insured” and underinsured” as follows:

**Fully Insured** - *“Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan’s deductible had not been met.”*

**Underinsured** - *“A person who has insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines or a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines. Children who are underinsured for selected vaccines are Vaccines for Children (VFC)-eligible for non-covered vaccines only.”*

## **What if a fully insured person needs a vaccine but can’t get an appointment at their healthcare facility?**

Public Health staff will do their best to help refer that individual to other resources in the community. Some community clinics offer low-cost vaccines, and many pharmacies now offer childhood and adult vaccinations for the general community (most without an appointment required).

## **Does Public Health anticipate any other changes in their vaccination policies?**

Not at this time. However, we are currently reviewing our services and resources to determine whether additional changes are needed. Updates will be announced to the public and shared with local healthcare providers.

## **How do I reach El Dorado County Public Health?**

Individuals with questions about immunizations may contact Public Health at:  
(530) 621-6100 in the Placerville area  
(530) 573-3155 in South Lake Tahoe