



## **Important News from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) June 14, 2012**

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### **Change is coming to the Vaccines for Children Program in San Antonio**

To ensure that VFC providers in San Antonio/Bexar County continue to receive enough vaccine for the VFC eligible children seeking immunization services, the San Antonio Metro Health VFC Program will become part of the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program on October 1, 2012.

San Antonio is the largest metropolitan area within the 28 county Health Services Region 8. As a result, San Antonio is often the medical home for children and adults residing within a hundred mile radius of Bexar County. This is evident by San Antonio Immunization Registry data for 2011 which revealed that over 39,000 doses of VFC vaccine were administered by San Antonio VFC providers to eligible patients that reside outside of Bexar County. Combine this with the increasing numbers of emigrating refugees and transplants from other states coming to San Antonio; the demand for vaccine to serve these individuals is ever increasing. In order to serve the growing VFC eligible populations that seek immunization services in Bexar County joining with the TVFC is essential.

Leadership at Metro Health has met with the TVFC team and plans are in place to ensure that the transition to TVFC is smooth.

- The San Antonio VFC Program and the TVFC Program operate under the guidelines and requirements of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. San Antonio providers are currently meeting the TVFC Program requirements by complying with San Antonio VFC Program requirements.
- TVFC offers comprehensive on-line training and on-line support to providers.
- TVFC training for providers will begin in September and those training details will be sent out in August to provide ample time and opportunities for San Antonio providers to participate in this important training.
- Enrollment forms and profiles for San Antonio providers will be updated by September 15, 2012 using TVFC enrollment forms. This re-enrollment will be required of every San Antonio VFC provider, even those that updated enrollment forms earlier this year will be required to re-enroll using the TVFC forms.
- TVFC allows provider choice and San Antonio providers will complete their VFC choice survey in July 2012. **Look for more information on the provider choice survey on July 2, 2012.**
- The San Antonio VFC Team will continue to serve in their current roles, processing and approving vaccine orders, conducting VFC in-services and site visits, and serving as an immunization resource for San Antonio VFC providers.

More information on this important program change will be forthcoming this summer. Both Metro Health and the TVFC Teams are committed to the success and importance of the VFC Program and the smooth transition to the TVFC by each VFC provider office.

If you have questions about this information please contact Kenya Wilson, VFC Program Coordinator at 207-3974. For questions regarding vaccine ordering, contact Anthony Johnson, Vaccine Management at 207-4015.