



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Immunization Program

July 13, 2010

Dear Vaccines for Children Providers,

The Immunization Program would like to thank you for helping us complete the implementation of the Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) business practice that began in February of this year. EOQ is a supply change industry best practice the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Louisiana Immunization Program is implementing to better manage publicly-funded vaccine orders and distribution more effectively. In brief EOQ is an ordering methodology which strives to find the minimum between ordering costs and inventory holding costs. For our purposes, finding the right balance between publicly-funded vaccine order size, provider order frequency, timing of orders flowing through the system, and storage/handling cost can lead to improvements in publicly-funded vaccine processing and shipments. We are proud to have achieved EOQ implementation statewide ahead of schedule.

But as we achieved one goal, we set new ones. As you all know a critical component of the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) is the development and introduction of a new vaccine management technology system. In Louisiana we are planning on using our homegrown LINKS Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS). VOMS is an enterprise system unique to our LINKS that will replace several legacy systems used at CDC.

We are happy to report that in June 2010, we began piloting our Vaccine Ordering and Management System (VOMS) in 18 (9 public and 9 private) Vaccines for Children provider practices.

VOMS will provide capabilities to allow the CDC to manage over \$3 billion of vaccines (\$87 million for LA) associated with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Section 317 grantee funded programs. As a single, integrated system, VOMS will provide the CDC constant visibility to the vaccine inventories held at the distributor locations and at provider locations. It will also allow CDC personnel to understand how dollars associated with these programs are being spent nationally.

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At our level, VOMS will provide capabilities for us to manage the providers that participate in these programs. Some of this support includes:

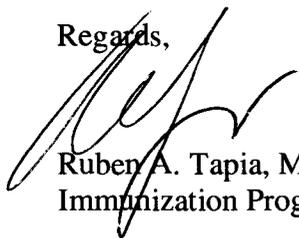
- Setting up and managing providers
- Performing a needs assessment for each provider
- Creating and monitoring spend plans
- Providers will submit their orders in LINKS (No more faxing of orders)
- Facilitating receipt of data from providers (e.g., temperature monitoring reports or doses administered data)

One of the primary goals of VOMS is to allow us to independently and uniquely manage our providers. At the provider level, VOMS provides vaccine ordering and order status capabilities. As such we will require all VFC providers to place their orders using LINKS. Orders will be approved based on their usage and inventories at hand.

Our current plan calls for a three month pilot. Based on the lessons learned from the pilots, we expect to start rolling out in late September 2010 with VOMS and fully implemented statewide by October 2011.

Periodically we will keep you abreast of the pilot and its implementation. As always your support is extremely valuable. Thanks in advance for your usual support.

Regards,



Ruben A. Tapia, MPH, Director  
Immunization Program



Patricia Simon  
Vaccine Procurement and Distribution Manager