



Idaho Medical Association

## Update on the Idaho Immunization Program

The immunization task force met again to delineate actions to further define the implementation steps for continuing the immunization program as a Universal Vaccine program. The goal of the Task Force is to provide vaccine for all children regardless of insurance status. Significant headway was made as detailed below:

- 1.) Identified necessary steps to begin the procurement of vaccines;
- 2.) Created a sub-group of the insurers to provide the claims billing process;
- 3.) Initiated process to identify additional insurers for program participation; and
- 4.) Discussed the timeline for implementation.

While many details remain to be worked out, a short term solution will likely be reached. Every effort is being made to have a system in place with no gap. However, since some of the necessary actions are outside of the Task Force's control, physicians should prepare contingency plans (similar to a vaccine shortage situation) for vaccinating insured children in the event that a short gap does occur (possibly 4 to 6 weeks)

**Note that the IMA will have additional information on the potential delay in early June and will disseminate this information the week of June 8.**

### Important Points:

- Once a solution has been put in place, the Idaho Immunization Program will be able to begin processing vaccine orders for all children as has been done in the past.

- We caution you not to build a large supply of privately purchased vaccine that you may not need.
- The reimbursement mechanism during a gap for these vaccines is unknown in some cases.

Please continue to watch for updates from the Idaho Medical Association (IMA) and the Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) on vaccine availability, the implementation date, and procedures for claim submission and billing.

For questions regarding the status of vaccines in Idaho, please contact the Idaho Immunization Program at 208.334.5931 or Suzan Belzer at the Idaho Medical Association, 208.344.7888, for the most current information.