



## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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Dear Parent(s):

**As of October 1, 2012, the Greenfield Health Department will no longer be able to vaccinate persons who have insurance that covers the cost of vaccines.** The only exception to this policy includes influenza vaccine for school-age children and all pertussis containing vaccines due to the current statewide outbreak of pertussis. This change is prompted by the elimination of federal 317 funding, particularly in light of the fact that the Affordable Care Act requires preventive services - including vaccination - to be provided without impacting the insurance deductible. Though the vaccine cost is not applicable to the insurance deductible, the office visit fee and administration fee may apply.

Historically, local health department vaccines were purchased using a combination of federal funds. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) funds were utilized to fund childhood vaccines for uninsured, whereas the 317 funds were used to fund vaccines for underinsured children. **After October 1<sup>st</sup> the Greenfield Health Department will continue to provide vaccinations for (1) those without health insurance, (2) on BadgerCare or other state health insurance, and (3) those that have health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines.** Staff will assess insurance status at the time parents make an appointment. It is estimated that the loss of 317 funds will impact over 26 percent of all clients served by the department over the past year.

Assuring the full vaccination of Greenfield children is an important goal of the Greenfield Health Department. The most recent two-year-old immunization report indicates that nearly 68 percent are fully vaccinated for age-appropriate vaccines (it is likely that the other children have incomplete vaccination records in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry rather than being under-vaccinated). The data are more remarkable in the school-age population where almost 97 percent are fully vaccinated. Through the active promotion of immunizations by both the Health Department, medical providers, and parents it is possible to maintain – and even increase! – immunization rates among Greenfield children despite the loss of 317 funds.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Anderson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, at 414-329-5265 or [elizabetha@greenfieldwi.us](mailto:elizabetha@greenfieldwi.us).

Yours in Health,

Darren J. Rausch, MS, CPH  
Health Officer/Director