



Mercury - Questions

Dolan, Tracy <Tracy.Dolan@vermont.gov>

Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 11:06 AM

To: Jennifer Stella <jennifer@voicesforchoice.com>, "Finley, Christine" <Christine.Finley@vermont.gov>, "Kelso, Patsy" <Patsy.Kelso@vermont.gov>

Hi Jennifer,

Thank-you for writing with your questions.

The Vermont Immunization Program is not purchasing any multi-dose vials of influenza vaccine. All vaccine purchased by the Vermont Immunization Program and provided for use in children 6 months through 18 years is thimerosal free. Christine's response was specific to the VFC/VFA state programs. We have no way of knowing what type of flu vaccine Vermont health care providers or pharmacies are privately purchasing and we do not track that information.

In response to your question regarding state employee flu clinics, Maura O'Brien, Coordinator of State Employee Health Program was contacted. She responded that she had spoken with you and informed you that multi-dose vials would be used and preservative-free vaccine would also be available. She noted that this is addressed in the FAQ's posted with the offer of flu vaccine to employees. The information states:

12. Does this vaccine have the mercury-based preservative called thimerosal?

- Yes. Multi-dose vials have a small amount of thimerosal to prevent contamination and growth of potentially harmful bacteria. We will have a limited supply of thimerosal preservative-free vaccine available upon request for anyone who is allergic, pregnant or breastfeeding.*

It's important to remember what science tells us. Although large quantities of mercury can damage the nervous system, there is no evidence that the small quantities contained in water, infant formula, breast milk and some influenza vaccines. Numerous, repeated, scientifically rigorous studies have never found a relationship between thimerosal and autism.

Thanks

Tracy.

From: Jennifer Stella [mailto:jennifer@voicesforchoice.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 10:54 AM

To: Finley, Christine <Christine.Finley@vermont.gov>; Kelso, Patsy <Patsy.Kelso@vermont.gov>; Dolan, Tracy <Tracy.Dolan@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Mercury - Questions

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