

Public Health

IOWA HHS

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Date: March 1, 2023

To: Iowa Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

From: Iowa VFC Program

Re: Vaccine Update: New Rotarix Liquid Formulation – Rotavirus Vaccine

Effective March 1, 2023, the Iowa VFC Program will allow providers to begin ordering the oral-dosing applicator-only presentation of Rotarix vaccine. **The new liquid formation does not require reconstitution.**

Rotarix is approved as an option for rotavirus vaccination in children 6 weeks to 8 months 0 days of age, according to currently recommended rotavirus dosing and schedules.

A detailed rotavirus vaccine summary is available [here](#) and includes information on use, dosage, schedule, and contraindications.

VFC Ordering:

All VFC Rotarix orders will be switched to the new liquid formulation, and the lyophilized formulation is no longer available to order. RotaTeq rotavirus vaccine (Merck) will continue to be an available option for Iowa VFC Providers.

VFC providers should continue to use existing lyophilized formulation of Rotarix stock prior to ordering the new liquid formulation to avoid vaccine wastage. When placing an order for rotavirus vaccine, please review the clinic's vaccine inventory to identify all other vaccines needed. **VFC providers should continue to place vaccine orders consistent with their economic order quantity (monthly, bimonthly or quarterly) and monitor existing inventory to ensure VFC vaccine is not wasted or allowed to expire.**

Updated VFC Monthly Doses Administered Reports and VFC Available Vaccines and Covered Age Ranges documents are available on the [Immunization Program Website](#).

VFC Providers should educate staff on how to prepare and administer the Rotarix formulation(s) in stock.

Questions regarding recommendations for the use of rotavirus vaccine may be directed to Shelly Jensen RN BSN at 1-800-831-6293 ext. 2. For questions regarding vaccine orders contact the VFC Program at 1-800-831-6293 ext. 6.