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Subject: RELEASE FROM THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

July 8, 2005

*** NOTE TO EDITORS ***

This is a complicated rule change and this release is intended to help parents or guardians understand what's new this year. In the past week the process was changed to make it more convenient and made final. Thanks.

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Wyoming Department of Health Officials Update and Finalize Upcoming Rule Changes in the Vaccine for Children Program

CHEYENNE - As of Oct. 1, Wyoming children with insurance that fully covers vaccines will no longer be eligible to receive free childhood vaccinations previously provided under a federal grant.

An additional change precludes people with insurance covering childhood vaccination from having their child vaccinated at a public health nursing office unless that office is the only provider in the community that administers vaccine, said Katelyn Wells-Fahling, the Immunization Program Manager for the Wyoming Department of Health.

The new rules prescribe the following:

Free federal childhood vaccine will be available at physician's offices, rural health centers, community health centers, and Indian Health Centers that participate under the federal Vaccine for Children program administered through the Wyoming Department of Health. (People should call ahead to see if their physician participates in the program). The providers above will immunize children up to the day before their nineteenth birthday who are:

- Medicaid eligible or enrolled.
- Uninsured.
- Native American or Alaskan Native, as defined by the Indian Health Services Act.
- Underinsured (for example, the child's insurance plan does not cover immunizations or the benefits for annual immunization coverage has been met).

Public Health Nursing Offices will immunize, for free, only those children who are:

- Medicaid eligible or enrolled.
- Uninsured.
- Native American or Alaskan Native, as defined by the Indian Health Services Act.

- end -

For more information, contact Katelyn Wells-Fahling, Immunization Program Manager, Wyoming Department of Health, (307) 777-6001