



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

February 16, 2012

To: Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), Licensed Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICFs/ID) and Nursing Facilities (NFs)

Subject: **Provider Letter 12-17** – New Policy Requirement and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (**Replaces Provider Letter 12-02**)

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the requirement to develop and implement a policy to protect the individuals you serve from vaccine-preventable diseases and to provide you with information about CDC guidelines on vaccine-preventable diseases. You must implement the policy by September 1, 2012.

Senate Bill (SB) 7, 82nd Texas Legislature, First Called Session, 2011, amended the Health and Safety Code by adding Chapter 224, Policy on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases. Article 8 of SB 7 contains specific policy requirements and can be viewed at: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/htm/HS.224.htm>. The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services is in the process of promulgating rules to codify these requirements in the Texas Administrative Code and will advise providers when the rules are proposed and when they become effective.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are defined as those diseases included in the most current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the CDC. The link to ACIP Comprehensive Recommendations for Health Care Personnel can be accessed from the following web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>.

ALFs, ICFs/ID and NFs must have a policy that protects residents from vaccine-preventable diseases. ALFs, ICFs/ID and NFs do not have to provide the vaccines to employees and contractors. However, such facilities may choose to do so.

The policy must specify the vaccines that an employee or contractor must receive based on the risk that the employee or contractor presents to residents and ensure that the employee or contractor receives the vaccines. The facility must also have procedures to verify that the employee or contractor either complied with the policy or is, for medical conditions, exempt from the required vaccines.

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If you have questions about this letter, please contact a Regulatory Services policy specialist at (512) 438-3161.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Veronda L. Durden
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

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