

10/18/2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Providers and staff enrolled in the VFC or 317 Programs
Providers and staff that prescribe or administer Merck MMR and varicella products

FROM: IDPH Immunization Section

DATE: 10/18/2023

RE: FDA-Approved Prefilled Diluent Syringe for Merck's M-M-R®II, VARIVAX®, and ProQuad®

FDA-Approved Prefilled Diluent Syringe for Merck's M-M-R®II, VARIVAX®, and ProQuad®

On 08/21/2023, the FDA approved sterile diluent supplied in a prefilled syringe for vaccines in Merck's MMRV Family. These include M-M-R® II (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Virus Vaccine Live), VARIVAX® (Varicella Virus Vaccine Live), and ProQuad® (Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella Virus Vaccine Live). When reconstituting these vaccines using the prefilled diluent syringe, the need to withdraw the sterile diluent from a vial is eliminated. **This update only impacts the sterile diluent, and there is no change to the vials containing lyophilized M-M-R®II, ProQuad, or VARIVAX.** With the availability of prefilled diluent syringes, this is one less step for the preparation of each of the vaccines in the MMRV Family.

Starting in October, the diluent for Merck's MMR, MMR-V, and varicella vaccines will begin to be supplied in a prefilled syringe rather than a vial. During this transition period, you may receive either the vials or syringes of diluent with orders of M-M-R®II, ProQuad, or VARIVAX. The transition to the prefilled diluent syringes should be fully complete by the end of 2023.

Packaging and Shipping

- The vaccines and sterile diluent will continue to be packaged separately, allowing you to store the diluent separately from the lyophilized vaccines. Store the prefilled diluent syringes at room

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temperature (68°F to 77°F, 20°C to 25°C) or in the refrigerator (36°F to 46°F, 2°C to 8°C). **Do not freeze the sterile diluent.**

- The sterile diluent will be supplied as a carton of 10 single-dose prefilled diluent syringes (NDC: 0006-4175-88). The carton dimensions are: 4.29" x 5.236" x 1.397".
- When shipped directly from Merck, orders of 40 doses (4 cartons) or fewer of M-M-R®II, ProQuad, and VARIVAX will be shipped together with the prefilled diluent syringes in one shipment.
- When shipped directly from Merck, orders of 50 doses (5 cartons) or more of M-M-R®II, ProQuad, and VARIVAX will be shipped in two parcels. The diluent will be shipped in an ambient temperature parcel.

CC: US-MMR-00348 MMR II VARIVAX & ProQuad Reconstitution Instructions Downloadable PDF FINAL
CC: US-QDX-00652 PFS Diluent Customer Letter Downloadable PDF FINAL

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

For help, questions, or feedback please contact the IDPH Immunization Section at dph.vaccines@illinois.gov or call 217-785-1455, option 2.