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Director

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

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Lt. Governor

July 9, 2013

To: Yellow Fever Vaccine Providers - Current Stamp Holders and Applicants  
Re: Updated Yellow Fever Policy and CDC Online Yellow Fever Online Course

Dear Providers:

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is notifying you about the updated Yellow Fever Vaccine Policy (see attached). The updated policy reflects

- 1) A new educational requirement and
- 2) Situations where multiple physicians or other healthcare providers may be offering vaccine under one provider's (physician's) stamp.

**New educational offering:**

CDC is now offering a new online course for providers, *Yellow Fever: Information for Healthcare Professionals Advising Travelers*. This online course is intended to provide a training tool for use in establishing competency among all providers of Yellow Fever vaccine. A maximum of 2.25 AMA category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) and other continuing education credits are available for providers and can be used when renewing your professional license. For other healthcare providers who inject the Yellow Fever vaccine under the provider physician's supervision (for example nurses, pharmacists, and health educators) continuing education credits are also available.

IDPH policy requires all current stamp holders and all healthcare providers who vaccinate under that stamp holder's supervision show proof of completing and passing the CDC online course within the next two years. All future stamp holders and healthcare providers, who will be vaccinating under that future stamp holder's supervision, must show proof of completing and passing the CDC online course before the stamp is issued.

**New policy:**

If the stamp holder has other physicians or healthcare providers that vaccinate under the holder's supervision, the attached policy must be followed. Please provide IDPH with the appropriate information needed to meet these policy requirements, whether a new stamp is being applied for or a current stamp holder needs to comply with this policy.

Sincerely,

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STATE OF IOWA  
Department of Public Health

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**Yellow Fever Stamp Request  
Policy # 5.4**

**Background and Purpose**

To administer Yellow Fever (YF) vaccine in Iowa, a physician must apply to become a YF Certified Uniform Stamp Holder. Certified uniform stamp holders have been granted the authority by the State of Iowa, Department of Public Health to administer yellow fever vaccine to the public. Every certified uniform stamp holder is issued a unique stamp that is used for international verification that a traveler has been vaccinated against yellow fever. The unique stamp is property of the State of Iowa, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and is subject to recall at the discretion of the Department. Sanofi Pasteur, the only yellow fever vaccine manufacturer in the United States, will ship yellow fever vaccine only to a designated center associated with an active certified uniform stamp holder.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the information that is required for a licensed physician to apply for a Yellow Fever Stamp and become a YF Certified Stamp Holder, and the process IDPH staff shall follow to fulfill the request.

**Definition**

Yellow Fever Stamp: The stamp assigned to a physician using his or her medical license number which authorizes administration of the Yellow Fever vaccine.

**Policy**

A physician must follow this policy to become a YF Certified Uniform Stamp Holder. This information is also located on the IDPH website; A-Z index under "Y" for Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider Information.

The physician applying for a Yellow Fever Stamp must submit the following information to IDPH:

- a. A letter written by the physician and addressed to the Iowa Department of Public Health, on office letterhead stating that he/she is applying to become a YF Certified Uniform Stamp Holder.
  - b. A statement that the physician will maintain at least five doses of the vaccine on the shelf at all times;
  - c. The physician's Iowa medical license number;
  - d. The physician's clinic address;
  - e. The exact facility address where the Yellow Fever vaccine will be shipped if the shipping address is different from the physician's clinic address. This address must match what is given to Sanofi Pasteur as a shipping address;
  - f. An email address for the physician;
  - g. A check for \$25.00 (made out to the Iowa Department of Public Health) for the stamp. This fee will be deposited into Org.#1501, to which the cost of the stamp and shipping will be billed.
  - h. A statement that a record of the vaccine will be entered into Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS).
  - i. A copy of the written instructions regarding adverse reactions that will be provided to each patient.
  - j. A statement describing and assuring correct storage and handling of the vaccine.
2. A check for \$25.00 (made out to the Iowa Department of Public Health) for the stamp.
  3. If the applying physician is part of a medical group or a practice (same geographically located clinic) with other physicians who will be prescribing Yellow Fever vaccine under the same stamp (i.e. a travel clinic) then the applying physician must provide the following information:
    - a. A description of the medical practice and a list of all other physicians who will be prescribing or administering the Yellow Fever vaccine using the applying physician's stamp.
    - b. Documentation establishing that each physician listed has completed and passed the CDC's online Yellow Fever Course and is licensed to practice in Iowa.

- c. A statement that each of these physicians accepts responsibility for seeing and providing a pre-vaccine medical examination to each person requesting Yellow Fever vaccine.
  - d. A statement that the applying physician accepts responsibility to see or consult with all Yellow Fever vaccine recipients regardless of which physician in the medical group treated the recipient.
  - e. A statement that the applying physician and other physicians in their medical group or clinic will maintain medical records for the Yellow Fever vaccine recipients.
  - f. A statement that the applying physician understands he/she accepts responsibility for all vaccine provision since he/she is the YF Certified Uniform Stamp Holder. Standing orders are not considered adequate for the provision of Yellow Fever vaccine.
  - g. A statement that the applying physician's insurance is adequate if the vaccine is provided by others under his/her authority/stamp.
4. If a non-physician, health care provider will be administering the vaccine under the applying physician's supervision, that healthcare provider must be appropriately licensed in Iowa and complete the CDC Yellow Fever course. The applying physician must document that the non-physician, health care provider satisfies all of the other above criteria.
  5. If the clinic at which the vaccine is administered is not located in the applying physician's clinic, the applying physician must address each of the criteria above as well as these additional criteria:
    - a. The applying physician must provide a signed statement describing the situation and that he/she accepts responsibility for the vaccine administration clinic and accepts responsibility for other licensed health care providers that may be administering the Yellow Fever vaccine.
    - b. The applying physician's office must be geographically close enough for the applying physician to provide immediate medical care to the vaccine recipient at the location where the vaccine is administered (because of the increased rates of side effects with the Yellow Fever vaccine).
    - c. All licensed health care providers who will be injecting vaccine must complete and pass the CDC Yellow Fever course.
    - d. The clinic where vaccination is being administered must document the ability to respond to emergency situations that can occur with Yellow Fever vaccinations.
  6. Submit completion of online 2010 CDC Yellow Fever course for all those who will be vaccinating patients (see above). Visit [www.cdc.gov/travel-training](http://www.cdc.gov/travel-training) to register for the course

**Specific policy issues:**

- IDPH follows the guidance from CDC that only licensed physicians may request and receive a Yellow Fever Stamp and that only licensed physicians are authorized to be YF Certified Uniform Stamp Holders.
- If the physician leaves the state or is no longer practicing, the stamp must be returned to IDPH and destroyed; it cannot be transferred to another physician at that facility.
- However, a different physician at that facility may apply for his/her own stamp.
- IDPH does not provide the International Certificates of Vaccination - International Certificates of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) are available for purchase in quantity from the Government Printing Office bookstore. Individual copies are not available. Certificates are valid for 10 years from the date of issuance. To order a physician may visit, [bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/vaccination.jsp](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/vaccination.jsp) or call toll-free (866) 512-1800. The form number for the ICVP is CDC 731. Delivery time for orders varies based on shipping options. To have orders shipped via FedEx, orders should be placed by phone.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, also sells a version of the ICVP. To access the WHO bookstore, a physician may visit, [www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=0&codcol=68&codcch=01000](http://www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=0&codcol=68&codcch=01000). Shipping may take a week or more.
- CDC Contact: Rhett Stoney Phone: 404-639-4865 Fax: 404-638-5432 Email: [rstoney@cdc.gov](mailto:rstoney@cdc.gov) or [dqyellowfever@cdc.gov](mailto:dqyellowfever@cdc.gov)