



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
MARK BENTON • Deputy Secretary for Health
SUSAN KANSAGRA • Assistant Secretary for Public Health
Division of Public Health

December 2, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants
FROM: Carrie Blanchard, PharmD, MPH, Interim Immunization Director
SUBJECT: Availability of PRIORIX

The purpose of this memo is to announce to NCIP providers that a new Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, PRIORIX, will be available through the NCIP effective December 5, 2022. Orders for PRIORIX can be placed through the North Carolina Immunization Registry using the Create Order screen. Providers not using NCIR may begin submitting orders for PRIORIX using the updated [Vaccine Requisition Form](#) located on the NCIP [website](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published [Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine \(Priorix\): Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—United States, 2022](#) in the November 18 issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

PRIORIX, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, is safe, immunogenic, and non-inferior to Merck's MMR II vaccine, which has been the sole MMR product used in the United States since 1978. MMR II and PRIORIX may be used interchangeably for all indications for which MMR vaccination is recommended. PRIORIX is a live attenuated virus vaccine, supplied as a single dose vial of lyophilized antigen to be reconstituted with the accompanying prefilled syringe of sterile water diluent. Administration is via subcutaneous injection. Unlike MMR II, **PRIORIX must be stored under refrigerated conditions (2° and 8°C) and cannot be frozen.** Please ensure all clinical staff are aware of this important difference in storage requirements. For more information, please review PRIORIX's [package insert](#).

PRIORIX can be ordered through NCIR or the order form [here](#) (for non-NCIR providers). Questions about the availability of PRIORIX should be directed to our NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH-IMMUNIZATION
BRANCHLOCATION: 5601 Six Forks Road, Building 2, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1917 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1917
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5550 • FAX: 919-870-4824

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER