

**State of Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Health
Acute Disease Prevention Services**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 12, 1998

SUBJECT: Local health departments allowed “blanket” designation to participate as a Civil Surgeon to certify the documentation of immunization
(Supplemental Form to I-693) for refugees

A letter from MDH dated June 25, 1997 informed you of a new federal immunization requirement for all new immigrants and persons wishing to adjust their status to legal permanent resident. This Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) policy stated that children and adults need age-appropriate vaccination against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, hepatitis B, varicella, influenzae and pneumococcal disease. A designated INS civil surgeons is required to sign off on the INS Immunization form, *Supplemental Form to I-693*.

We recently received an announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and INS about a “blanket” designation to allow local health departments to participate as a Civil Surgeon to certify the documentation of immunization (*Supplemental Form to I-693*) for refugees. Note: Refugees need to have only the immunization assessment to change their status; whereas other non-refugee persons (i.e., immigrants) will continue to need to receive a full immigration examination, including both an immunization assessment and physical examination, by a designated INS Civil Surgeon who will sign all of the needed documentation. Attached is a list of designated INS Civil Surgeons in Minnesota.

This “blanket” designation as a Civil Surgeons for refugees adjusting status is voluntary and limited only to local health departments with licensed physicians on staff. These physicians are not required to have special training but need to have a minium of four years experience as a licensed physician. If your agency meets this requirement and chooses to participate as a Civil Surgeon to certify the documentation of immunization (*Supplemental Form to I-693*) for refugees, please carefully review the enclosed information from CDC and INS.

Thanks for the opportunity to work with you to make sure that refugees have access to immunization authorization to become a legal permanent resident. If you have any questions about these requirements, please call us at the Refugee Health Program at MDH.