



The Vaccinator

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE PROGRAM
AT COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH -- FIRST QUARTER, 2015

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April 18-25, 2015

“National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities”.

2015 Immunization Schedule

Key Updates:

The 2015 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) annual updates on immunization schedules requires that health care providers review schedules in conjunction with their corresponding footnotes when assessing vaccination recommendations for their patients. Some important highlights of the Immunization schedules published in January 2015 include:

- ♦ Vaccination with the MMR vaccine of children 6-11 months of age who plan to travel or live abroad.
- ♦ If the fourth dose of DTaP vaccine was administered four months or more after the 3rd dose, at an appropriate age, it can be counted as a valid dose, and need not be repeated after the recommended six month interval between doses 3 and 4.
- ♦ The schedule was modified to again highlight a recommendation for the influenza vaccine. The recommendation is that children under the age of 9 who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time need 2 doses.
- ♦ All adults aged 65 years and older should now receive the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13), in addition to the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

The full MMWR can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6404a5.htm>

Please refer to the MOBI/AFIX program information in this issue on how we can further assist your staff with the new immunization schedules.

CDC Immunization Job-Aids:

CDC has developed “job-aids” with detailed scenarios by age group and previous doses of vaccine for several common childhood immunizations. The simplified algorithm should assist health care provider to understand and easily apply the catch-up schedules. It can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html#job-aids>

2015 Measles Outbreak—What Next for Providers?

From January 1 to March 13, 2015, 176 people from 17 states and the District of Columbia were reported to have measles compared to 644 cases from 27 states in all of 2014 reported to the CDC. Most of these cases [130 cases (74%)] are part of a large, ongoing multi-state outbreak linked to an amusement park in California. For children 19 months to 35 months, Ohio is tied with West Virginia and Colorado for the lowest MMR immunization rate in the country according to the 2013 National Immunization Survey. It is important for healthcare providers to continue to:

- ♦ Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine and other vaccines.
- ♦ Follow the CDC's recommendation to vaccinate all US residents older than 6 months travelling internationally if needed, prior to departure. The full recommendation can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>

Influenza Update

Flu Vaccine Prevented Millions of Flu Cases

- ◆ According to the CDC, US influenza activity is still high across most of the country with flu illnesses. Severity is highest amongst people 65 and older followed by children 0-4 years of age.. The flu season will probably continue for several weeks. While the influenza vaccine this season may not work as well as usual against some H3N2 viruses, vaccination can still offer protection for people and will protect against other influenza viruses.
- ◆ CDC is reminding clinicians and the public that people with high risk factors who get flu symptoms should be evaluated for possible treatment with flu antiviral drugs. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm>

MOBI and AFIX

Maximizing Office Based Immunizations (MOBI) is a 60 minute educational presentation on immunizations. Topics covered include the latest CDC schedule, vaccine hesitancy issues, and the guidelines on administering vaccines. Participants receive 1 nursing education credit and a packet of information.

Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, and eXchange (AFIX) is a quality improvement program that can help your practice fine tune your immunization procedures by showing practices where they succeed and where issues may lie. Both programs are provided free by Columbus Public Health. To schedule a MOBI or AFIX or for questions please contact our coordinator Amy Melsoner at 614-645-1479.

Do Not Forget the Adults!

The 2013 recommendations of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) wants providers - whether they provide vaccinations or not to take steps to help ensure that their adult patients are fully immunized. These recommendations are summarized in the [Standards for Adult Immunization Practice](#):

1. **ASSESS** immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter.
2. Strongly **RECOMMEND** vaccines that patients need. (Address patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language. Explain the benefits of getting vaccinated.)
3. **ADMINISTER** needed vaccines or **REFER** patients to a vaccinating provider.
4. **DOCUMENT** vaccines received by your patient. (Participate in **Impact SIIIS**, Ohio's statewide immunization registry.) <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/standards/>

Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

Federal law requires that the most current VIS be handed out for each vaccine that is given.

VISs may be obtained from Immunize.org (<http://www.immunize.org/vis/>) in English and several other languages.

For providers with a high percentage of non-English speaking clients, CPH may be able to provide you with some VIS(s) in other languages. For help, call us at 614-645-6463.

Upcoming Opportunities

Free Immunization Clinics at Farmers Market

Each summer in July and August CPH conducts a Farmers Market for our clientele. A special immunization clinic is held at the Farmers Market. Stay tuned for more information on the CPH website <http://columbus.gov/publichealth/>