

miniupdate

IMMUNIZATION BRANCH • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES • 850 MARINA BAY PARKWAY, BUILDING P, RICHMOND, CA 94804 • (510) 620-3737 • www.GetImmunizedCA.org

TO: Medical Directors, Community-Based Clinics
Directors, Medical Residency Programs
Directors, Nursing Schools
Interested Others

December 11, 2006

FROM: Howard Backer, MD, MPH, Chief
Immunization Branch

Below for your information and reference is an abbreviated copy of the Immunization Branch's bimonthly UPDATE memorandum. The edited version contains medical and technical information on immunization and vaccines. We hope it is helpful. If you have questions on immunizations, please contact the Immunization Coordinator at your local health department.



Download them all Today!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Disease Activity and Surveillance	2
Assessment Activity	2
Immunization Services	3
Vaccines Risks and Benefits	3
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program	3
Professional Information and Education	4
Public Information and Education	4
Influenza and Pneumococcal Activities	5
Pandemic and BT Preparedness	5
Immunization Registries	5
IZ Coalition Activities	5

More Flu Messages

It's not too late to get vaccinated against influenza! Flu incidence can peak as late as March, but the public believes the opportunity is lost after Thanksgiving. This year, when more vaccine is available than ever before, we need to let everyone know that vaccination in December or January, even February is not too late if flu activity has not peaked, you can still protect individuals and their families.

To spread this message, CDHS, the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I), the California Adult Immunization Coalition (CAIC) and the California Distance Learning Health Network (CDLHN) have created video and audio flu and holiday season public service announcements (PSAs). CDHS produced a flu shot PSA "It's not too late" and partnered with C3I to record the holiday "Wash Your Hands" jingle, sung by the UC Men's Octet. Both audio PSAs are available in Spanish and English and both can be downloaded from the flu pages on the DHS website at www.GetImmunizedCA.org. New this year, C3I, CAIC and CDLHN have produced a video version of the "Wash Your Hands" PSA, which features a guest appearance by Santa himself.

Another exciting new promotional video features the recent "Boomer Biker Immunization Ride," sponsored by CAIC. The 1 minute and 48 second ready-to-air video news release (VNR) is being sent via satellite uplink to television news desk across the state. Both the "Wash Your Hands" PSA and the VNR can be viewed at www.cdlnh.com.

DISEASE ACTIVITY AND SURVEILLANCE

The surveillance data reviewed in this section are reported below. If you have any questions about the data, please contact Jennifer Myers at (510) 620-3848 or JMyers@dhs.ca.gov.

Pertussis: From January to October 2006, 1,252 cases of pertussis were reported in California with onset in 2006, resulting in an annualized incidence rate of 4.03 cases per 100,000 population. Of all cases, 233 (18.6%) were infants less than 12 months old, and 333 (26.6%) were 10-17 years old and therefore eligible for the new adolescent Tdap vaccine. Race/ethnicity was specified for 1,068 out of 1,252 cases. Of these, 568 (53.2%) cases were White, non-Hispanic, 362 (33.9%) were Hispanic, 43 (4.0%) were Asian/Pacific Islander, 50 (4.7%) were African American, 29 (2.7%) were American Indian/Alaskan Native and 16 (1.5%) were of other race/ethnicity. Only one pertussis-related death, a 21-day-old infant, has been reported this year.

Measles: From January to October 2006, six confirmed measles cases have been reported in Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and Santa Clara Counties. These cases were described in detail in previous IZ UPDATES (April, June and October 2006).

Mumps: From January to October 2006, 161 possible cases of mumps in California residents with onset of symptoms in 2006 have been reported to the CDHS. Twenty-one cases have been laboratory confirmed either by the CDHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL, n=5), commercial laboratories (n=13) or by both VRDL and commercial laboratories (n=3).

Fourteen of the 21 laboratory confirmed cases were between 26 and 59 years of age, one case was 75 years old, one case was 11 years old and five cases were under 5 years of age.

The remaining 140 cases are being reviewed by CDHS and those meeting the CDC/Conference of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) clinical case definition for mumps are being classified as probable cases. Only confirmed mumps are being reported to the CDC.

***Haemophilus influenzae* type b:** From January to October 2006, one case of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) was reported in Orange County. This case was reported in detail in the April 2006 IZ UPDATE.

Tetanus: From January to October 2006, eight cases of tetanus were reported in Los Angeles (3 cases), Orange, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Tulare. The latest case was a 51 year old with no known risk fac-

tors and unknown vaccination history. The case is currently being investigated by local health department disease investigators.

Hepatitis A: From January to October 2006, 655 cases of hepatitis A were reported in California in 2006, resulting in an annualized incidence rate of 2.11 cases per 100,000 population. Most of the cases (89.2%) were adults. Race/ethnicity was specified for 534 out of 655 cases. Of these, 228 (42.7%) cases were White, non-Hispanic, 182 (34.1%) were Hispanic, 41 (7.7%) were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 71 (13.3%) were African American, 3 cases (0.6%) was American Indian/Alaskan Native and 9 (1.7%) were of other race/ethnicities.

Hepatitis B: From January to October 2006, 298 cases of hepatitis B were reported in California with onset in 2006, resulting in an annualized incidence rate of 0.96 cases per 100,000 population. Almost all reported cases were in adults (98.3%). Four cases were reported in children under 18 years of age and one case was reported with unknown age. These five cases are being investigated by local health departments. Race/ethnicity was specified for 209 out of 298 cases. Of these, 101 (48.3%) cases were White, non-Hispanic, 53 (25.4%) were Hispanic, 33 (15.8%) were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 14 (6.7%) were African American, 3 (1.4%) were American Indian/Alaskan Native and 5 (2.4%) were of other race/ethnicities.

Rubella: From January to October 2006, one case of laboratory confirmed rubella was reported from Santa Clara County. This case was described in detail in the October 2006 IZ UPDATE.

Other VPDs: As of October 31, 2006, for this report year, no confirmed cases of diphtheria, polio, or congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) have been reported to the Immunization Branch.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

2006 Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Survey Results

The Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Survey (KRS) is one of the only sources of information on childhood immunization coverage at the local level. A number of local health departments conducted this survey in 2006.

The Immunization Branch worked with local health departments to select a sample of kindergarten schools. Local health departments visited these schools and collected copies of kindergarten student immunization records. Birth dates and immunization dates were used to retrospectively estimate immunization coverage.

Continued on page 3...

Immunization coverage among kindergarten students at 24 months of age in selected local health departments are shown in Table 1. For more information, please contact the appropriate local health department.

Table 1: Immunization Coverage among Kindergarten Students at 24 Months of Age in Selected Local Health Departments, 2006

Health Department	Sample Size (n)	4:3:1 ¹	4:3:1:3 ²	4:3:1:3:1 ³
Contra Costa	703	80.4%	n/a	n/a
Fresno	1,578	73.2%	70.6%	65.9%
Kern	1,388	69.8%	68.6%	63.7%
Kings	440	69.6%	68.0%	62.7%
Madera	467	73.7%	70.0%	67.1%
Monterey	804	74.0%	71.0%	63.3%
Riverside	1,481	n/a	n/a	n/a
San Diego	1,990	77.0%	n/a	n/a
Santa Clara	1,266	76.9%	73.1%	66.8%
Santa Cruz	733	74.4%	70.3%	64.8%
Stanislaus	495	67.8%	65.9%	60.3%
Tulare	1,216	73.7%	71.6%	67.7%

1. Four or more doses of DTaP, three or more doses of Polio, and one or more doses of MMR

2. Four or more doses of DTaP, three or more doses of Polio, one or more doses of MMR, and three or more doses of Hep B

3. Four or more doses of DTaP, three or more doses of Polio, one or more doses of MMR, three or more doses of Hep B, and one or more doses of varicella

Source: 2006 Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Surveys

Prepared by the California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

How Is California Doing? Fact Sheet

California childhood vaccination levels are at an all time high. Check out the latest "How is California Doing?" fact sheet available online at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/levels.htm.

Improved Supply of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Recommendation to Resume Vaccination of Children Aged 11-12 Years

In January 2005, a tetravalent meningococcal polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine (MCV4) Menactra™, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., Swiftwater, Pennsylvania) was licensed for use among persons aged 11-55 years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination with MCV4 for:

- children aged 11-12 years at their regular health-care visit and, if not previously vaccinated with MCV4
- adolescents at high-school entry (at approximately age 15 years)

- college freshmen living in dormitories
- other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease, including
 - military recruits
 - travelers to areas in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic
 - microbiologists who are routinely exposed to isolates of *Neisseria Meningitidis*
 - persons with anatomic or functional asplenia
 - persons with terminal complement deficiency

VACCINE RISKS AND BENEFITS

Interim Shingles VIS

An interim Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the newly-licensed zoster (shingles) vaccine (Zostavax®) has been posted on the NIP website www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS. This VIS is based primarily on information from the manufacturer's package insert. The final VIS will be produced after the ACIP's recommendations have been published, and could differ from this version. Bulk supplies of the interim Shingles Vaccine Information Statement in English and Spanish are now available to the local health departments. The Spanish version is also available online at www.immunize.org. Samples of the new VIS in English and Spanish are enclosed.

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

Recent VFC Mailings

During the past two months, we've sent technical assistance memoranda to VFC-participating providers that included the HPV vaccine recommendations and information of the lifting of restrictions on Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine (MCV4). For copies of these memoranda, visit www.vfca.org or call the VFC program office at (877) 243-8832.

HPV Vaccine included in VFC!

The new Merck quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®) will be available shortly through the VFC program! This will allow millions of eligible California girls age 9 to 18 to receive this important new vaccine. Providers enrolled in VFC will be notified this month about the availability of HPV vaccine in 10-packs of single-dose vials (5mL per vial). The cost to the federal government for the HPV vaccine is \$960 per pack (\$96 per dose).

HPV vaccine was licensed earlier this year by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for girls and women aged 9 to 26 years offering them protection against HPV viruses

Continued on page 4...

types 6, 11, 16, and 18 that account for approximately 70% of cervical cancers in the U.S. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the routine use of HPV vaccine as a three-dose series for females, ages 11-12 years. ACIP has also recommended catch-up vaccination in females, ages 13-26 years.

The VFC letter on HPV Vaccine informs providers about these recommendations, contraindications and precautions, ordering instructions, and includes a copy of the revised VFC Order Form. A copy of the revised form can also be found at www.vfc-ca.org. Providers who have questions may call the VFC program office at (877) 243-8832.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Evaluation 2005

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides federally purchased vaccine to public and private providers to immunize eligible children. As part of the VFC agreement, Immunization Branch VFC health facility evaluators visit private providers to review compliance with VFC program requirements for client eligibility, vaccine handling and storage, and record keeping. During 2005, VFC field staff or local health department staff made 1,059 quality assurance (QA) visits to a third of VFC private providers. Local health department immunization staff conducted 216 (20.4%) of these office evaluations. Visits to family practices made up the majority of the visit activity (51.7%), while 30% of site visits were to pediatric practices. The staff profile of these practices remain unchanged compared to the previous year's with a median of two practitioners (MD, NP, PA) and two support staff (RN, LVN, MA).

In general, QA office visits indicate California's VFC providers are knowledgeable and conscientious about immunizing patients. A summary of findings, *Compliance to Immunization Practice Standards Observed During VFC Quality Assurance Visits (Jan-Dec 2004)* is enclosed. For More information please contact Betty Tran, BTran@dhs.ca.gov or (510) 620-3760.

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

CDC's Annual Four-Part VPD Satellite Course

Mark your 2007 calendars now for CDC's annual live four-part satellite broadcast "Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Disease" on four consecutive Thursdays: January 25, and February 1, 8, 15. This live interactive program will provide the most current information available in the constantly changing field of immunization. Private and public health care providers, clinics staff, and anyone giving immunizations or setting policy for their offices will benefit from

the course. CEs will be offered. More information about this program will be available later at www2.cdc.gov/phtn/.

Adult Immunization Update

CDC's Adult Immunization satellite broadcast is now available as a webcast. This program updates health care personnel on current adult immunization recommendations. The program describes the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults in the United States, highlights the 2006-2007 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, and explains strategies to improve adult vaccination coverage levels. The presentation includes a discussion of vaccines routinely recommended for adults, including influenza, pneumococcal, Tdap, HPV and herpes zoster. It also addresses vaccines recommended for health care personnel and identifies resources relevant to vaccine recommendations for international travel. The program originally aired as a live satellite broadcast on December 7, 2006.

To receive Continuing Education (CE) credit for viewing the webcast, you must register online and then complete the course evaluation. CE for this program will expire on January 8, 2007.

Visit the PHTN website at www2.cdc.gov/phtn/adult-imm06/default.asp for further information about this webcast and other distance learning courses.

Tdap Use in Wound Management

Reported pertussis cases continue to rise in the U.S. Health care providers are urged to use Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis booster vaccine) which is now recommended instead of Td for routine tetanus boosters and for wound management of adolescents and adults.

To increase awareness of Tdap immunization use for wound management, the Immunization Branch has updated the "Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management" flyer (IMM-154) which has been posted on the IZ Branch website www.GetImmunizedCA.org.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Preteen Vaccine Week Updates

Preteen Vaccine Week (PVW) is coming up soon—January 21-27! General public access to the latest campaign kit is posted on the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I) website at www.immunizeca.org and on the IZ Branch website at www.GetImmunizedCA.org. It can be used by anyone to plan for PVW.

What else is new? Materials in Spanish. And a physician's "Rx" pad of health tips for preteen patients (IMM-631) is suitable for pediatricians and family practice doctors. Electronic versions of our materials, such as the "letter to

parents" in English and Spanish, are available online by clicking on the Preteen Vaccine Week "quick link" on the home page at www.GetImmunizedCA.org.

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL ACTIVITIES

New Law Requires Hospital Staff Flu Shots

A new law recently signed by Governor Schwarzenegger (Chapter 562, Statutes of 2006, SB 739 Speier) will create requirements for hospitals to vaccinate staff against flu beginning next year. Effective July 1, 2007, California general acute care hospitals must offer no-cost onsite flu shots to all hospital employees. Moreover, hospital staff will be required to either be vaccinated against flu, or decline the vaccine requirement in writing.

Physicians should keep in mind that pre-booking for the 2007-08 vaccine begins as early as January, 2007. Physicians can contact distributors for more information on the pre-booking process. A letter on this subject from CDHS to physicians and acute care facilities will be available shortly at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/mercury_law.htm.

Additional provisions of the new law include establishing respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette protocols, developing and implementing procedures for isolating patients with flu, and adopting a seasonal influenza plan. Hospitals will also be tasked with ensuring that any hospital disaster plan includes a pandemic influenza component. The plan must document recommended collaboration with local, regional, and state public health agencies or officials in the event of an influenza pandemic. To see the full text of the new law visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/05-06/bill/sen/sb_0701-0750/sb_739_bill_20060928_chaptered.html. A link to this new law has also been posted on www.GetImmunizedCA.org, under the Health Professionals tab, "Legal and Regulatory" page.

T-Free Flu Vaccine Exemption Through December 14, 2006

A temporary exemption to the California state mercury law From November 2, 2006, through December 14, 2006, allows children in California younger than 3 years to receive U.S. licensed influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials (See www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/mercury_law.htm). The exemption is currently set to expire on December 14, after which children under 3 years of age will need to be immunized with the 0.25 ml single dose formulation of vaccine which meets the limit of the mercury law. At this time, limited amounts of thimerosal free vaccine are available through sanofi and certain distributors. For more detailed

information, please go to the following webpage: www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16919.html.

PANDEMIC AND BT PREPAREDNESS

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Schools

The Immunization Branch, in conjunction with its partners (the Emergency Preparedness Office, the California Department of Education, and the California Distance Learning Health Network) is developing a training program to help schools from preschool through college to increase their preparedness for a possible influenza pandemic. The training program will consist of a broadcast, tabletop exercise, and toolkit. The broadcast will include topics such as school closure, the role of the health department, and respiratory and hand hygiene. It will first air May 17, 2007.

IMMUNIZATION REGISTRIES

Immunization Registries: Business Case for Health Plans

A new policy brief, "*Immunization Registry: Benefits to Health Plans and IPOs*," is now available from the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I). The brief lays out evidence for how immunization registries can increase efficiency, reduce costs, improve immunization rates, plan competitive standing, and quality of care. The brief includes suggestions for how health plans can get involved and encourage providers in their networks to join a California immunization registry. Interested health plans should contact Norene DeBruycker at (916) 447-7063 x333 or visit online at www.immunizeca.org.

IZ COALITION ACTIVITIES

African American Infant Health Week Coming in February

February 18-24, 2007 is a time to recognize the importance of supporting African American mothers, infants, and children. The CDHS Black Infant Health Program is dedicated to improving the health of African American infants and will celebrate this week with community health fairs, conferences to educate local community advocates, and well-baby care including immunizations. CDHS is committed to increasing public awareness about health and psychosocial risks experienced by African American infants and their mothers and the availability of state and

Continued on page 6...

local programs that can help reduce these risks. For additional information, or if you or your coalition are interested in participating in these event, please contact your local Black Infant Health Program or visit their website at www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/bihp.

2007 NIIW/TIM: Up-to-date? Celebrate!

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) are annual observances that emphasize the need to fully immunize children age 2 and younger against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, NIIW will be held the week of April 21-28, 2007 and TIM the month of May, 2007. In an effort to observe near all-time high immunization coverage levels, this year's theme is "Up-to-date? Celebrate!" CDHS Immunization Branch, the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I), the California Distance Learning Health Network (CDLHN), and local jurisdictions are gearing up for a fun and successful campaign. Start planning your campaign by joining the kick-off C3I Education Hour on December 12 from noon to 1pm. The 2007 Campaign Kit is available on the C3I website, www.immunizeca.org. For additional information about the campaign, contact Jana Stone at JStone2@dhs.ca.gov.

7th CA Adult IZ Summit

In early Spring, 2007, the California Adult Immunization Coalition (CAIC) will be sponsoring the 7th Annual California Adult Immunization Summit. Check the CAIC website, www.immunizecaadults.org, for dates and registration information.