

miniupdate

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

December 6, 2004

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.



For more information on this Public Service Announcement CD please see page 2.

Expanded FluMist® Availability

State restrictions on the use of nasal spray flu vaccine, FluMist®, have been lifted and now all individuals who are 5 through 49 years of age without chronic medical conditions and who are not pregnant can access FluMist®. FluMist® was previously restricted to health care providers who had direct patient care and caregivers of children younger than 6 months old. Consumers can find a location that offers FluMist® by calling 1-866-592-4381 between 5:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., or by going to www.findfluvaccine.org.

While any person 5 through 49 years old without chronic medical conditions and who is not pregnant may receive FluMist®, it may be particularly useful for some of the following groups:

- All health care workers (except those who care for severely immunocompromised patients in special care units)
- Adults caring for children younger than 6 months of age
- School-aged children
- Contacts of people at high-risk for influenza-related complications
- People who come into contact with large numbers of people

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It's Not Too Late To Vaccinate!

It's not too late to vaccinate against the flu. Influenza will be transmitted into the spring, so vaccination in December or in early 2005 will still protect your patients.

There are still persons at high risk for complications from influenza who have not received flu vaccine this season. Supplies to immunize these members of priority groups remain, despite the overall vaccine shortage. This vaccine includes plenty of doses of preservative-free 0.25 ml doses suitable for children 6 months through 3 years old. Vaccine can be ordered through local health departments at regular season prices.

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL ACTIVITIES

Fun Public Service Announcements

Just in time for the holidays, the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I) has developed a fun, musical public service announcement (PSA) being sent to 250 radio stations across California. It features the UC Men's Octet singing a song about hand-washing to the tune of Jingle Bells. The lyrics were originally written by San Francisco's IZ coordinator, Amy Pine. For more information, please contact Tammy Pilisuk at (510) 849-5070 or TPilisuk@dhs.ca.gov.

Pneumonia Vaccine Recommended

Dr. Richard Jackson, the State Public Health Officer, recommends pneumonia vaccine to prevent the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia, a common complication of influenza that can result in hospitalization or death. A pneumonia shot is recommended for all adults 65 years of age and older who have not previously had this vaccine, and for all individuals 2 to 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions who have not previously had this vaccine. Persons who have previously received pneumonia vaccine are protected and do not need another shot.

IZ Branch Website Responds to Flu Vaccine Shortage

Need up-to-date information on the 2004-05 flu vaccine shortage? The Immunization Branch is responding to the public's need for information. You can find current news updates, policy statements, questions and answers, and flu-prevention materials on the DHS Immunization Branch website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/flu.htm or follow the flu link on www.dhs.ca.gov. The IZ Branch's Flu Information page

is updated daily to reflect information about vaccine supply, distribution, and news from the State of California and the CDC. Moreover, the Flu Page is a one-stop shop for all of California's local flu information contacts, many of whom will be coordinating flu vaccine activities into January. Links to county-level website or flu hotline information for all of California's local health jurisdictions is now easy to access for health care providers or any concerned citizen.

New Flyers to Promote Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) or FluMist®

Enclosed in this UPDATE are two camera-ready flyers to assist in the promotion of LAIV to two of the targeted priority groups: to health care workers and to contacts of infants less than 6 months. The flyers enclosed have been updated to include the flu nasal spray locator website, www.findfluvaccine.org. Both flyers are available online at www.dhs.ca.gov, by clicking on the flu link.

FluMist® (Nasal Spray) Patient Screening Tool

Enclosed in the IZ Coordinator UPDATES is a CDC produced revised FluMist® patient screening form to enable self-screening by patients. The form can help identify which adults and children should and should not be vaccinated with FluMist®. These persons could then seek clarification or answers from staff. The form is available online at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/flu.htm.

More Flu Form Translations

The Spanish translation of the VIS flu supplement form and the flu assessment form (IMM-822) are now available online at the DHS web site. The Live Influenza (FluMist®) Vaccine VIS also has been translated into the following languages: Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese; these translations can be downloaded from the Immunization Action Coalition web site at www.immunize.org.

DISEASE ACTIVITY AND SURVEILLANCE

The surveillance data reviewed in this section are reported in Table 1 on the next page. Enclosed in Coordinator UPDATES is a table of VPD cases in California by jurisdiction. The Coordinator UPDATES table includes provisional number of VPD cases reported in 2004 with onset in 2004 (as of October 31, 2004). For comparison, the number of cases reported in 2003 with onset in 2003

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(as of October 31, 2003) is included. If you have any questions about this table, please contact Jennifer Myers at (510) 540-2118 or jmyers@dhs.ca.gov.

Pertussis: From January to October 2004, 641 cases of pertussis were reported with onset in 2004, resulting in an annualized incidence rate of 2.08 cases per 100,000 population. For the same time period in 2003, 623 cases were reported in California. Thirty-five percent (226 cases) of the 2004 cases were infants <1 year of age. Forty percent (255 cases) were White, 37% (234 cases) were Hispanic, 4% (24 cases) were African-American, 1% (9 cases) were Asian/Pacific Islander and the remaining 19% (119 cases) were of other or unknown race/ethnicity. Four pertussis deaths have been reported this year. The first two were described in previous UPDATES, the other two occurred in Sacramento County. One case was a five-week-old infant and another was a 3-year-old child. These two cases are pending investigation at the local health department and are not included in the accompanying tables.

Hepatitis A: From January to October 2004, 666 cases of Hepatitis A were reported with onset in 2004, resulting in an annualized incidence of 2.16 cases per 100,000 population. For the same time period in 2003, 842 cases were reported. The majority (80%) of the 2004 hepatitis A cases were adults. Thirty-two percent (210 cases) were White, 28% (185 cases) were Hispanic, 10% (64 cases) were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% (24 cases) were African-American, and the remaining 27% (183 cases) were of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

Hepatitis B: From January to October 2004, 354 cases were reported with onset in 2004, resulting in an annualized incidence of 1.15 cases per 100,000 population. For the same time period in 2003, 520 cases were reported. Four cases under 19 years of age have been reported, two of which are confirmed cases that have been reported on

in previous UPDATES, and two of which are currently being investigated by local health department. Thirty-one percent (111 cases) of all hepatitis B 2004 cases were White, 16% (55 cases) were Hispanic, 8% (28 cases) were Asian/Pacific Islander, 8% (30 cases) were African-American, and the remaining 37% (130 cases) were of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

Other VPDs: From January to October 2004, six cases of measles, two cases of Haemophilus influenzae, type b and three tetanus cases were reported. Please see previous 2004 UPDATES for descriptions of these cases. No new cases of measles, Haemophilus influenzae, type b or tetanus were reported between July and October 2004. As of October 31, 2004, no confirmed cases of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), diphtheria, polio or rubella have been reported to the Immunization Branch this year.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

2004 Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Survey Results

A number of local health departments conducted Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Surveys in 2004, with nine LHDs reporting their results to the IZ Branch. These surveys provide county/city estimates of immunization coverage among kindergarten students at 24 months of age. Data were collected from California School Immunization Records (blue cards) of children enrolled in kindergarten during the 2003-2004 school year. The majority of these students were born in 1998 and were 24 months old in 2000.

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Table 1: Reported Cases with Onset in 2004, by Age Group and Incidence of Selected Vaccine Preventable Diseases, California, 2004 (Provisional – as of 10/31/04)

DISEASE	Age Groups			Age Unknown	All Ages	
	0-4 yrs	5-17 yrs	18+ yrs		Cases	Rate ¹
Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
<i>H. influenzae</i> , type B (Hib) ²	0	1	1	0	2	0.01
Hepatitis A	23	105	534	4	666	2.16
Hepatitis B	0	3	350	1	354	1.15
Measles ³	2	1	3	0	6	0.02
Pertussis	305	178	153	5	641	2.08
Rubella ³	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Tetanus	0	0	3	0	3	0.01

¹ Annualized Incidence Rate = cases/100,000 population

² *H. influenzae* is reportable only for cases ≤30 years

³ Confirmed cases only

Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch

Table 2 shows the results by jurisdiction of immunization coverage with the 4:3:1 series (4 DTaP, 3 Polio, and 1 MMR) among kindergartners at 24 months of age for California and selected local health departments. Please note that these point estimates are not directly comparable. For more details about results at the local level, please contact the Immunization Coordinator at the participating health department.

Table 2: Immunization Coverage Among Kindergartners at 24 Months, California and Selected Local Health Departments, 2004

Health Department	Sample Size (n)	4:3:1 (4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR)
California*	2222	71.8%
Alameda	852	72.3%
Berkeley City	768	71.6%
Kern	736	68.1%
Riverside	1878	69.2%
San Bernardino	1158	80.8%
San Diego	2118	78.1%
Santa Clara	747	72.8%
Solano	376	78.5%
Stanislaus	527	76.5%

*Immunization coverage for California is estimated from a statewide sample of kindergartners that were selected for the 2004 Kindergarten Retrospective Survey
Source: 2004 Expanded Kindergarten Retrospective Survey
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

VFC Flu Vaccines – Status

All VFC Influenza vaccine, in 10-dose vials, for use in VFC-eligible children from six months through 18 years of age was received from the manufacturer by November 5th. Our wholesale distributor filled and shipped all open orders the following week.

Of our single dose preservative-free flu vaccine in syringes, for use in all VFC-eligible children from six months through 23 months of age (and licensed for use through 36 months of age) the VFC has received approximately 40%. The remainder will be delivered by December 10th. GIV processes the orders received from the VFC Program each week. Providers may also call the VFC Program's Customer Service Representative at our Toll-Free VFC Customer Service Number: 1-877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) to order and with any questions. VFC Providers may still fax in flu vaccine order requests to our Toll-Free VFC Fax Number: 1-877-339-9832 (877-FAXX-VFC).

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Satellite Broadcast Now Available as Webcast

Our "Quality Assurance in Vaccine Storage and Handling" satellite broadcast aired December 1st. This 90-minute program is available as a full-length webcast offering continuing education credits for various professions based on 1.5 hours of instruction now through January 3, 2005. The program will be available on video in January. To view the webcast or order the video visit www.cdlnh.com.

This broadcast targets program and field staff who advise and train on vaccine storage in physician offices and clinics. It features a panel of experts discussing equipment, temperature ranges, logging, training office staff and related issues. Resources for practices are shared, in particular the new CDC video/DVD "How to Protect Your Vaccine Supply" and accompanying toolkits—both available at www.cdc.gov/nip/home-hcp.htm.

Contraindications and Pediatric Schedules Poster

Enclosed in this UPDATE is a sample of the updated "Everything" poster. Supplies of the 2004 "Summary of Pediatric Immunization Recommendations" (IMM-232) were shipped to local health departments in October.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Hepatitis A VIS in Spanish

The revised (8/4/04) hepatitis A Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is now available in Spanish. Translation in other languages soon will be available online (www.immunize.org)!

IZ COALITION ACTIVITIES

C3I Meeting Addresses "Anti" Vaccine Movement

IZ coalition representatives from throughout California attended the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I) Fall meeting in San Francisco. Andrew

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Resignato, San Francisco Immunization Coalition Director, talked about “Dissecting the Anti-Vaccine Movement.” He reminded participants that vaccine opponents come in a variety of packages, and that we cannot be effective with a “one size fits all” response. He supported his presentation with statistics, resources and suggestions for working with opponents of childhood immunizations. Check out his presentation—and more—on the San Francisco Coalition website at www.sfimmunize.org. The May 2005 biannual meeting in Orange County is tentatively set for May 20th.

Save the Date for Adult Summit

Please save the date for the Fifth Annual (2005) California Adult Immunization Summit on Monday, May 2, 2005 at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel in San Diego, CA. The Summit promises to bring together diverse organizations, professional societies, health plans, health care providers and others involved in improving adult immunization coverage rates both within their own organization and in local coalitions. All representatives of public and private sector health care organizations involved in influenza and adult immunization programs are invited to attend. The Summit is sponsored by the California Adult Immunization Coalition (CAIC). For additional information regarding the 2005 Summit or

the CAIC, please visit the CAIC website at: www.immunizeCAadults.org or contact Patricia Porter, RN, MPH at (415) 502-6493 or pporter@itsa.ucsf.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Staff

Norman Jackson is a health education consultant in the Information and Education Section for bioterrorism-related training and emergency preparedness. He has over twelve years of health promotion and education work experience in the non-profit and government sectors. His most recent position was in the Community Epidemiology Unit of the San Diego Public Health Department where he served as the Supervising Communicable Disease Investigator. He was awarded an academic fellowship from the Andrus Foundation and recently completed a Master of Science degree from San Diego State University in the College of Health and Human Services. He is committed to decreasing the health disparities in populations of color, disadvantaged populations and the aged. Norman can be reached at (510) 540-3181 or njackson@dhs.ca.gov.

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