March 2015 eUpshot from the Immunization Initiative

Latest Immunization News

Action Alert!

EverThrive Illinois is supporting a bill that we need your help advocating for this week! You can find the summary of the bill below, SB1410 - Certificate of Religious Exemption (Bill Sponsor - Senator John Mulroe). This bill is currently in the Senate Public Health Committee. Please call members of the Senate Public Health Committee and ask them to vote YES on SB1410. Find the members of the Senate Public Health Committee here >>

SB1410 preserves a parent's option to exempt their child from immunizations on religious grounds, yet, ensures that such a decision is an informed one. This bill aids parents in being more aware of the individual and public health risks of choosing not to immunize their child by creating a Certificate of Religious Exemption that details the grounds for a parent's objection and the specific immunizations and/or examinations to which a parent is objecting in addition to requiring a health provider's signature confirming that a conversation with the parent about the benefits of immunizations has taken place.

2015 National Infant Immunization Week

Mark your calendars! The 2015 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will be held April 18–25, 2015. Information and resources can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s NIIW website.

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) and EverThrive IL are partnering to present an NIIW webinar.

National Infant Immunization Week: Immunization. Power to Protect
Tuesday, April 21
12-1PM
Marealita Pierce, MD
Pierce Pediatric Associates

To Register Click here.
A Reminder of the Importance of Vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring the multi-state measles outbreak.

The CDC created a fact sheet for child care providers and healthcare professionals called Top 4 Things Parents Need to Know about Measles.

Measles is highly contagious and a person with no immunity can become infected simply by being in the same room as someone with the disease. We are reminded of the importance of vaccination. If someone suspects that they may have measles they should call their county health department as well as their provider. CDC has issued a Health Advisory to provide guidance for healthcare providers nationwide.

The CDC has an archived webinar for healthcare providers interested in additional information Measles 2015: Situational Update, Clinical Guidance, and Vaccination Recommendations

Flu Recommendations From ACIP

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on its annual recommendations for the 2015-2016 influenza season. ACIP voted to continue to recommend that all persons 6 months and older be vaccinated annually against influenza. However, the Committee did not renew the 2014-2015 preference for using the nasal spray flu vaccine instead of the flu shot in healthy children 2 through 8 years of age when immediately available. This decision was made based on new data from more recent seasons, which have not confirmed superior effectiveness of the nasal spray flu vaccine observed in earlier studies. ACIP recommends that children 6 months and older get an annual influenza vaccine with no preference stated for either the nasal spray vaccine or the flu shot. Additional information can be found on the CDC website

Additional information about the February ACIP meeting can be found in the “Immunization Resources” section of this newsletter.
WHO Announces Composition of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for the 2015–2016 Northern Hemisphere Season; FDA Endorses

On February 26, the World Health Organization (WHO) released information about the composition of the strains that will be used for seasonal influenza vaccination in the northern hemisphere in 2015–2016.

It is recommended that trivalent vaccines for use in the 2015–2016 influenza season (northern hemisphere winter) contain the following:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

On March 4, FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met and voted to endorse WHO's recommendation regarding strains for seasonal influenza vaccination in the northern hemisphere in 2015–2016.

New CDC Study Highlights Burden of Pneumonia Hospitalizations on U.S. Children

On February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the results of a study that highlights the burden of pneumonia hospitalizations on U.S. children. Children younger than 5 years old account for 70 percent of pneumonia hospitalizations among children. Pneumonia continues to be the leading cause of hospitalizations among children in the United States. "Pneumonia puts thousands of young children in the hospital each year at a cost in the U.S. of about $1 billion, not to mention suffering of kids and hardship for their families," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, MD, MPH.
**Immunization Resources**

**ACIP February Meeting**

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met February 25-26, 2015. Visit the ACIP meeting web page for agendas, presentation slides, meeting minutes, archived video broadcasts, and additional information.

**CDC Releases 2015 Immunization Schedules App for Smart Phones and Tablets**

CDC recently released an updated version of its CDC Vaccine Schedules app to help clinicians and other healthcare professionals quickly access the current recommended immunization schedules. If you previously downloaded the 2014 app, you must download the 2015 version, release 2.0.1. Check your app store or app library for updates. This app is intended for healthcare professionals who recommend or administer vaccines. All CDC-recommended immunization schedules, tables, and footnotes are immediately accessible from your mobile device. The app is optimized for tablets and useful on smart phones. It visually mimics the printed schedules, which are reviewed and published annually.

**CDC Measles Resources**

One in 12 children aged 19-35 months in the U.S. is not receiving the first dose of MMR vaccine on time. To support disease prevention and vaccination education efforts, CDC has developed a variety of measles-specific and vaccination-general media. See new fact sheets and infographics available including educational resources for parents and childcare providers.
CDC Resources for Pregnant Women

Visit the CDC’s Pregnancy and Whooping Cough website to find out more about the Tdap recommendation for pregnant women. Vaccination during every pregnancy, and surrounding newborns with vaccinated adults helps protect babies from whooping cough!

CDC You Call the Shots Modules

You Call the Shots is a web-based training course developed through the Project to Enhance Immunization Content in Nursing Education and Training. The General Recommendations on Immunization module has recently been updated. Visit You Call the Shots for additional information and other modules. Continuing Education (CE) credit is available for viewing a module and completing an evaluation.

Adult Immunization Materials

Adult resource materials are available for order from the Public Health Foundation, including a prescription pad with a checklist healthcare providers can use to counsel patients about which vaccines are right for them. Each sheet on the pad lists 17 possible vaccinations and serves as a convenient resource for patients and providers. Also visit CDC’s Adult Vaccination Information for Healthcare and Public Health Providers to download materials to educate and encourage adult patients to get vaccinated. The resources, along with the new Vaccines for Adults website, provide general information on adult vaccination. Targeted groups include young adults (19-26 years), pregnant women, adults with special health conditions, and older adults (60 years and older).
NFID Adult Immunization Resources

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has a website devoted to adult vaccination. This website includes materials designed to help healthcare professionals educate adults about the importance of vaccination and implement strategies to improve adult vaccination rates.

Coursera Offers Free Six-Week Course on Vaccination Taught by Dr. Paul Offit

Starting April 13, Coursera will offer a course titled Vaccines that will discuss issues regarding vaccines and vaccine safety. The course will include the history, science, benefits, and risks of vaccines, the controversies and common questions surrounding vaccines, an update on newly created vaccines, and an update on recent outbreaks of previously controlled diseases.

The course runs from April 13 through May 23. Each week features two to four 15–20 minute lectures, presented by Paul Offit, MD, the Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Upcoming Events

Immunization Spring Seminar

Join us for the Spring Immunization Seminar: Get Ready for a Healthy Summer!

May 19
8:30am- 12pm (registration and breakfast 8:30am-9am)
Loretto Hospital
645 S Central Ave,
Chicago, IL 60644

Topics include:
- motivational interviewing to promote healthy decisions such as vaccination
- 0-3 immunizations
- back to school requirements
- summer meal programs
- text4baby
Public Awareness Committee

The Public Awareness Committee creates public education programs by developing messages that highlight immunizations across the lifespan. Responsibilities of the committee include promoting and assisting with Immunization Seminars, National Infant Immunization Week, the Adult Immunization Project, and other activities that the committee establishes as areas of need.

April 16 at 10am
EverThrive Illinois, 1256 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL
For more information contact Kelly McKenna kmckenna@everthriveil.org

Registry Workgroup

The Registry Workgroup promotes and provides education regarding the web-based Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE) that is administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health and builds support for integrating other electronic health record systems with I-CARE. Responsibilities of the committee include increasing participation in the registry, assisting with better coordination of immunization records between providers, and improving the data collection of immunization records.

April 30 at 10am
EverThrive Illinois
1256 W. Chicago Ave
Chicago, IL 60642
For more information contact Kelly McKenna kmckenna@everthriveil.org

Save The Date: 2015 Illinois Immunization and Communicable Disease Conference

The 28th Annual Illinois Immunization and Communicable Disease Conference will be held on July 14-15, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel (700 East Adams Street) in Springfield, Illinois. The conference provides health care professionals throughout Illinois with current and accurate information on important infectious disease topics for performing essential services directly related to, or impacted by, infection control issues, health and medical education efforts and public health practices. This event offers nursing contact hours, CEUs for licensed environmental health practitioners and certified health education specialists and universal CEUs are offered as well. Registration and additional information will be posted online.

Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Webinars

National Infant Immunization Week: Immunization. Power to Protect
Tuesday, April 21
12-1PM
Marealita Pierce, MD
Pierce Pediatric Associates

Business Side of Vaccine Webinar: Billing & Coding Best Practices
Friday, July 10
12-1PM
Becky Dolan, MPH, CPC, CPEDC
American Academy of Pediatrics

To register for a webinar click here.

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Vaccine Education Center Webinar

The most recent installment in the “Current Updates in Vaccines” webinar series was presented by Dr. Paul Offit on March 18. The webinar is archived on their website. Free continuing education credits are offered, including for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Medical credits are administered through the University of Pittsburgh and pharmacy-related credits through Wilkes University.

Topics included:
- The serogroup B meningococcal vaccine: Who should get it?
- The 9-valent HPV vaccine: New recommendations
- Influenza vaccines: An update
- The measles epidemic: A turning point?

Registration Deadline for June 24–25 ACIP Meeting is June 3 for non-U.S. Citizens and June 10 for Citizens

CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will hold its next meeting on June 24–25 in Atlanta at CDC’s Clifton Road campus. To attend the meeting, ACIP attendees (participants and visitors) must register online. The registration deadline for non-U.S. citizens is June 3; June 10 for U.S. citizens. Registration is not required to watch the live webcast of the meeting.

More information available from the CDC website.