



The Philadelphia Immunization Program Newsletter

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Provider Spotlight! Philadelphia Vaccines For Children and Vaccines For Adults At Risk

VFC Program Spotlight Practice: Premier Pediatrics

Premier Pediatrics (2318 E. Allegheny Avenue) has shown exceptional dedication to the immunization of their pediatric patients, as demonstrated by their **93% coverage rate** for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series among 24-month-old children in 2007. The site's commendable immunization practices and its reminder/recall system exemplify the excellent care Premier Pediatrics provides for their pediatric patients.

Premier Pediatrics' high coverage results from many factors:

- The staff knows their patients very well. Staff members communicate with each other if they notice certain patients have not visited as scheduled, and they make phone calls to the parents of these patients to remind them to come back into the office for immunizations.
- When making phone calls, the staff goes through emergency contact numbers to reach parents. The phone calls are their most effective recall method.
- They check immunizations EVERY visit, even sick visits, and utilize the web-based KIDS Registry to check immunization records.
- They routinely immunize when the child has a cold, a low-grade fever, was recently exposed to infectious illness, and/or has mild diarrhea.
- They encourage flu shots.
- They respond proactively to coverage rates from the Philadelphia Immunization program and insurance companies, using them as benchmarking data to improve their practice.

After spending time in the Premier Pediatrics office, it's not hard to notice the doctor and medical assistants working collaboratively toward the goal of keeping kids healthy and immunized. Congratulations to Premier Pediatrics for surpassing the Healthy People 2010 immunization coverage rate goal of 90% and continuing to provide excellent immunization care to the children of Philadelphia!

VFAAR Program Spotlight Practice: Chinatown Clinic at Holy Redeemer Church

The VFAAR Program recognizes Drexel University's **Chinatown Clinic at Holy Redeemer Church** (915 Vine Street) for their excellence in patient follow up, as evidenced by their high hepatitis B vaccination series completion rates of over 90% for the three-shot series for adults in need of catchup.

Chinatown Clinic at Holy Redeemer Church was founded in 1998 to serve the medical needs of the uninsured Asian community in Philadelphia. Since that time, Chinatown Clinic has worked to overcome language and cultural barriers to accessing quality health care. They have established a strong, positive presence in the Asian Community and continue to make a significant contribution toward hepatitis prevention in Philadelphia. Chinatown Clinic has shown great perseverance in ensuring their patients receive all three doses of hepatitis B vaccine. They have achieved this all while operating during limited hours, as they see patients just one evening per week.

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers and staff at Chinatown Clinic for your hard work and diligence in providing a gold standard for hepatitis immunization and patient care for uninsured adults of all ethnicities. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

TOP 10 Reminders from the VFC Program!

1. Designate one staff member to be your point person for vaccine orders and vaccine handling, *as well as an alternate* in case the primary contact is unavailable.
2. Check temperatures twice a day. Ensure temps are in range for refrigerated (2-8°C / 35-46°F) and frozen (-15°C or colder / 5°F or colder) vaccines.
3. Inventory all vaccines at least once per month.
4. ALWAYS call the VFC program immediately if you experience a power outage, or if temperatures go out of range. Also call if any VFC vaccine is expired, spoiled or wasted. DO NOT transport vaccines without first discussing with VFC.
5. Notify the VFC Program if any VFC vaccine will expire within 60 to 90 days by faxing a Short-Dated Form to (215) 685-6510.
6. Use your *Immunization Provider Handbook* for reference and program guidance.
7. Use VFC vaccine for VFC-eligible patients ONLY.
8. Store vaccines in order of expiration date, and use the earliest-expiring vaccine first.
9. Order when you have no less than a month of inventory on hand. Do not over order (more than 3 months beyond need).
10. Remember, VFC vaccine is purchased with taxpayer funds. VFC providers experiencing vaccine losses due to expiration or improper storage will be suspended from the VFC Program until the wasted or spoiled vaccines are reimbursed through private purchase.

KIDS Immunization Registry Updates



KIDS Registry Is Growing...

As of February 28, 2008, the KIDS registry contained immunization histories for 482,793 children: 158,730 between 0-6 years of age, and 324,063 children ages 7-18 and over. KIDS also contains information on 5,393,855 immunizations. About one-third of the 356 providers (125, or 35%) who reported immunizations to the KIDS Registry in 2007 submit a majority of their immunization data electronically. Meanwhile, most immunization records (80%) are reported to the registry in electronic format.

- Would you or your staff like a training to access the web-based KIDS Registry? Call Tanya Jones: 215-685-6494.
- Interested in reporting electronically? Call Longina Dubiel: 215-685-6830

Immunization Program Contacts:

Immunization Program Manager:
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Medical Director:
Dr. Barbara Watson (215) 685-6842

VFC Coordinator:
Veronica Alvarez (215) 685-6498

VFC-AFIX Visits:
Lisa Morgan (215) 685-6872
Lori Matijkiw, RN (215) 685-6466

KIDS Registry Assistant Coordinator:
Longina Dubiel (215) 685-6830

KIDS Registry Helpline: (215) 685-6784

VFAAR Program/Community Flu Clinics:
Kate Cushman: (215) 685-6424

Immunization Outreach Programs:
Alexandra Ossa (215) 685-6837

Perinatal Hepatitis B Program:
Bruce Barlow, RN (215) 685-6853

Varicella Surveillance Project:
Niya Spells (215) 685-6838

Vaccine Order Questions:
Christine Wilson (215) 685-6728

Immunization Program Communications:
Lauren Hutchens (215) 685-6854

Report all immunizations given to children 0-18 to KIDS Registry

Reporting requirements for providers in the City of Philadelphia were expanded under Health Code 6-210 in July 2007. This requirement applies to all providers, public and private, and to all vaccine doses, whether VFC vaccine or privately purchased. The previous regulation required providers to report all vaccinations given to children 0-6 years of age.

Immunization Info on the Web!

Did you know....

The Kids Registry login web page at <https://kids.phila.gov> now features up-to-date information and resources for Philadelphia immunization providers, including:

- Vaccination Schedules and Recommendations
- Immunization Program information and VFC Program forms
- Links to current Vaccine Information Statements
- Immunization Best Practice Standards
- Recent Immunization Program communications
- Information on vaccine storage and handling, vaccine administration, local resources, and adverse event reporting

Immunization Outreach Program Updates

The Immunization Community Based Outreach Program is an effort to keep infants up to date for their childhood immunizations and help eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases in Philadelphia. The Program is a partnership between the Immunization Program and two community-based organizations: the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations, Inc. (Concilio) and the Supportive Child /Adult Network, Inc. (SCAN). Community health educators from Concilio and SCAN work with families of immunization-delayed children, generally 10 and 20 months of age, to increase awareness about the importance of timely immunizations and help return those children to their medical home for care.

The outreach program uses the KIDS Registry to generate referrals for children who appear to be behind with age-appropriate immunizations. In 2007, the program returned more than 1,000 immunization-delayed children to their medical home for immunizations. The program also involves regular chart reviews at the largest pediatric sites in the city to ensure that the children referred to community outreach are those who are truly immunization-delayed.

In 2007, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the outreach program with its "Model Practice Award" for demonstrating exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The program was selected as one of 29 local public health programs across the nation to receive this award.

If you have severely delayed children in your practice whom you wish to refer to the community-based outreach program, please contact Alexandra Ossa, Outreach Program Coordinator, at 215-685-6837.

VFC Updates

Vaccine Information Statements

On Jan. 30, 2008, the CDC issued a "Multi-vaccine VIS" that may be used as a substitute for any or all of the routine birth through six month vaccine VISs: DTaP, IPV, Hib, PCV, Hepatitis B, and Rotavirus. Using this multi-vaccine VIS instead of the separate VISs for these vaccines is optional; the combination VIS was developed to cover the earliest pediatric visits, when these vaccines are often given simultaneously.

Other recently updated VISs:

- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (5/17/07)
- Hepatitis B (7/18/07)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (2/2/07)
- Live, Intranasal Influenza (10/4/07)
- Inactivated Influenza (7/16/07)
- Meningococcal (1/28/08)
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (3/13/08)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) (3/13/08)

VISs are available through the CDC website, or by calling the Immunization Program at: 215-685-6728.

Hepatitis A: As of Sept. 2007, VAQTA® is unavailable until further notice, and all VFC providers should order GSK's HAVR-IX® instead. VFC Hep A vaccine is available for all children 12-23 months of age, and children 2-18 years of age at high risk.

Hib: On Dec. 13, 2007, Merck initiated a voluntary precautionary recall of certain lots of PedvaxHIB® and Comvax® vaccines. The three-dose Hib vaccine PedvaxHIB and Comvax (Hib-HepB combination) currently are unavailable through the VFC program. Please order ActHIB® (sanofi), the four-dose Hib vaccine, instead. Providers should continue to complete the primary Hib series on schedule, but the booster at 12-15 months should be deferred, except for at-risk children, until supply returns.

Influenza: On Feb. 28, the ACIP voted to approve this recommendation: "Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months to 18 years, to be implemented as soon as feasible, no later than the 2009-2010 influenza season." The ACIP also voted to include this in the VFC program. The Philadelphia VFC program will notify providers when the recommendation becomes final.

MMRV: The MMRV combination vaccine ProQuad® (Merck) is not expected to be available until 2009. VFC Providers should continue to order separate MMR and Varicella vaccines.

Meningococcal: As of Oct. 22, 2007, Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4; Menactra® - sanofi) is FDA-approved for individuals 2-55 years of age. MCV4 should be administered routinely to children 11-12 years at the pre-adolescent visit, and children 13-18 years old who have not previously received MCV4 should also receive one dose. For children 2-10 years at increased risk for meningococcal disease, the ACIP has revised its recommendation to state that MCV4 is preferable to MPSV4. MCV4 acquired through the VFC program may be administered to children 2-18 years of age who meet the criteria above.

Pertussis: Reported pertussis cases have tripled in the United States since 2001, and yet the disease's nonspecific signs and symptoms and the lack of rapid, sensitive, and specific lab tests can make early and accurate identification difficult. The recent pertussis death of an infant in Philadelphia, whose mother had undiagnosed pertussis for two weeks prior to the infant's death, emphasizes that widespread immunization (including the need to improve Tdap coverage in adolescents,

preconception, and post-partum) remains the best strategy for controlling potential pertussis outbreaks. Although completing the DTaP series provides protection from pertussis in childhood, immunity wanes after 5-10 years. Susceptible infants often acquire pertussis through household contacts and are at the highest risk of developing complications.

The ACIP recommends that a single dose of Tdap be given to:

- Adolescents 11-18 years if they have completed the recommended childhood DTP or DTaP vaccination series and have not already received an adolescent dose of Tdap or Td. (The recommended age for this booster is 11-12 years)
- Adolescents 11-18 years if they had a booster dose of Td ≥ 5 years earlier.
- Adults 19-64 years for booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis to replace a single dose of Td if they received the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine ≥ 10 years earlier.
- Adults who have or expect to have close contact with an infant <12 months, including parents, grandparents <65 years, childcare providers, healthcare workers, women in the immediate post-partum period, or any women who might become pregnant.

Varicella: Shipments of Merck's Varivax® have returned to the normal delivery schedule of 15 business days. Order Varivax when your practice reaches a minimum of a one-month supply. Remember, varicella vaccine is always stored frozen. Philadelphia school entry regulations regarding varicella will be fully enforced. Children required to have two doses of varicella vaccine according to school entry level and grade-specific varicella immunity regulations will be excluded from school if these requirements are not met.

Surveillance

Reminder! Notify the PDPH Division of Disease Control of all incidents of suspected or confirmed reportable diseases and conditions. These include many vaccine-preventable diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, varicella (including zoster), invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* disease, hepatitis A and B, meningococcal infections, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* disease. Please see https://kids.phila.gov/local_resources.aspx for a complete list of reportable conditions, and the timeframe under which each should be reported.

Surveillance indicators point to recent upticks in invasive pneumococcal and invasive meningococcal diseases, while rates of rotavirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella continue to decrease as a result of improved vaccine coverage for these diseases. Your cooperation in reporting will greatly help the DDC in identifying and managing potential disease outbreaks! Please see the DDC's Annual Report for more information: http://www.phila.gov/Health/units/ddc/DDC_Annual_Reports.html

Report by phone: 215-685-6748 / Report by fax: 215-545-8362

After-hours immediate reporting & consultation: 215-686-1776 (phone)

Also remember to report all cases of chickenpox and shingles to the Varicella Active Surveillance Program (VASP). Cases can be reported by phone: (215) 685-6833 / 6838 / 6869 or fax: (215) 685-6806

Community Flu Program Achievements

The Philadelphia Immunization Program, in partnership with Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, coordinates a citywide community-based influenza vaccination campaign for adults each year. The campaign strives to raise awareness about the importance of annual flu vaccination, and to vaccinate those adults with no alternative sources of medical care, including the un- and underinsured, the homeless, and the frail or infirm. Philadelphia's community flu campaign is one of the largest in the country, and is unique in that it is staffed almost entirely by volunteer providers.

The campaign conducted 250 flu clinics at more than 150 community-based locations such as senior centers and churches over the duration of the 2007-2008 campaign, with 220 of those clinics taking place in one 21-day-period. As many as 13,000 flu shots were administered between the Nov. 1, 2007 kick-off at the Philadelphia Senior Center and the final clinic on Jan. 21, 2008.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health would like to recognize the hundreds of volunteers throughout the healthcare community who are the heart and soul of the annual community-based influenza vaccination campaign. Without you, the campaign would not be possible. Thank you for your generous gifts of time and effort in the community.

2007-08 Community Flu Campaign Volunteer Providers

Alicia Parker
Albert Einstein Medical Center
Premier Years Nurses
Albert Salvador
Annette Nelson
Artrice Ford
Barbara Genello
Bill Putnam
Bob Carrozza
Burnestine Burrell
Candice Mapp
Cassandra Holloway
Cathy Curley
Charlotte Morris
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., Theta
Chapter Nurses
Chinese Health Information Center
Community College of Phila. School
of Nursing, Faculty and Students
Continuous Home Care, Inc. Nurses
Darren Linkin
Diane Adler

Diane Pirolo
Dolores Brewer
Donna Whitehead
Drexel University College of
Medicine, Faculty and Students
Drexel University College of Nursing,
Faculty and Students
Elaine Brown
Elizabeth Keech
Emily Nichols
Farley Sejour
Giang Nguyen
Greater Phila. Asian Social Services
Gwen Travis
Gwynedd-Mercy College School of
Nursing, Faculty and Students
Ida Gerald
Ivory Coleman
Jean Gardener
Joanne Burke
John Werner
Josephine Davis

Karen Papastrat
Lei Lei Duan
Lida Manguba
Main Line Health Systems Nurses
Marline Branch
Mary Schwartz
Methodist Hospital Nurses
Michelle Jackson
Moon Ja Suh
Naomi Jones
National Association of Hispanic
Nurses, Philadelphia Chapter
Neva White
Northeastern Hospital Nurses
Northeastern Hospital School of
Nursing, Faculty and Students
Patricia Andrews
Paul Nichols
Penny Killian
Port Richmond Pharmacy
Rose Hollace
Sally Hammerman

Sandy Gathers
Shirley Hopewell
Southeastern Pennsylvania Black
Nurses Association
Stephen Gambescia
Susan Sacks
Temple University Hospital,
Episcopal Campus Nurses
Temple University Sch. of Nursing,
Faculty and Students
Temple University School of
Pharmacy, Faculty and Students
Terry Villot
Thomas Jefferson U. Hospital
Community Health Nurses
Thomas Jefferson University School
of Nursing, Faculty and Students
Valerie Caraballo Perez
Villanova University College of
Nursing, Faculty and Students
Vincent Zarro
Yvonne Parnley

Immunization Program Receives CDC Award



The city of Philadelphia had the fourth-highest immunization coverage for 19- to 35-month-olds among local areas in the U.S. for 2006, according to the National Immunization Survey (NIS), conducted each year by the U.S. Centers For Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Philadelphia's coverage rate for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series was 80%. This is the first time in the history of the survey that Philadelphia has ranked this high.

Pictured (seated, L-R): Veronica Alvarez, Barbara Watson, Jim Lutz, Longina Dubiel. Standing (L-R): Stephanie Stadlin, Bruce Barlow, Srey Prak, Rafael Echavarría, Tanya Jones, Jenny Harvey, Xiomara Lugo, Lori Matijkiw, Niya Spells, Lisa Morgan, Kate Cushman, Lauren Hutchens, Alexandra Ossa, Liyuan Ma, Priya Abraham.