

# The Hawai'i Vaccines For Children Newsletter

## Hawai'i VFC News

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A PUBLICATION OF THE HAWAII IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

"Hawai'i VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating VFC providers. Its purpose is to address VFC-related issues, provide general immunization information, and keep you up-to-date with the latest program changes. If you have any suggestions for future newsletter topics, or if you would like to share relevant immunization information with other VFC providers through our newsletter, please contact Mardelle Gustilo at (808) 586-4587 or via e-mail at [mardelle.gustilo@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:mardelle.gustilo@doh.hawaii.gov). Neighbor Islands, call toll-free 1-800-933-4832.

### VFC'S New Vaccine Administration Visit Record (VAVR) Form

Due to recent changes to the Hawaii VFC program, the *Vaccine Administration Visit Record (VAVR)* form has been modified. As of January 1, 2011, the Hawaii TeenVax program was officially discontinued, therefore "TeenVax" is no longer an eligibility option for children receiving State or Federally-provided vaccine and has been removed from the form. In addition, information regarding the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) can now be found on the reverse side of the VAVR form.

ALL VFC providers are **required** to use this new form when recording the administration of VFC vaccine. If your office has not received forms by 2/15/11, please contact the VFC program. We will ensure that the forms are mailed to you as soon as possible. You may also request additional forms by completing and submitting a VFC order form. We ask for your assistance in ensuring that all previous versions of the VFC VAVR are discarded to prevent inadvertent use of older forms. Thank you for your cooperation! Please contact us at 586-8300 (Oahu) or 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands) should you have any questions.

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### Have You HIR'd?

**Have you heard that providers using electronic medical/health records (EMR/EHR) can participate in the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR)?**

It's true. Providers using EMR/EHRs can view their patient's vaccination history in HIR, possibly providing them with information on immunizations not available in their medical record, including immunization administration by other providers, 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine, newborn hepatitis B vaccine, and seasonal influenza vaccine administered through the Stop Flu at School program. To enroll as an HIR-participating provider, e-mail [registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov) or call 586-4665 (Oahu), 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands).

HIR can accept data transfers from EMR/EHRs via flat file or HL7 messaging. For assistance in enhancing your system to be able to send data to and receive data from HIR, contact the Hawaii Pacific Regional Extension Center (HPREC)\* at (808) 441-1344 or visit their website at [www.hawaiihi.org/rec](http://www.hawaiihi.org/rec).

For more information about HIR visit <https://hir.doh.hawaii.gov> or call 586-4665 (Oahu), 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands).

\*HPREC is a federally funded program assisting primary care providers in adopting, implementing, and becoming meaningful users of EMR/EHR systems. HPREC also assists providers in becoming eligible for the monetary incentives offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

# Talk to the Doc

Marcia Nagao, MD, MPH



**My newborn patient's 70 year old grandmother will be her babysitter. Should the grandmother receive Tdap to reduce the likelihood of transmission of pertussis to my patient?**

Yes. The Advisory Committee of Information Practices (ACIP) has published updated recommendations for the use of Tdap vaccine. Adults aged 65 years and older (e.g., grandparents, childcare providers, and healthcare practitioners) who have close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age and who previously have not received Tdap should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission. For all other adults aged 65 years and older, a single dose of Tdap may be given instead of Td vaccine, in persons who have not previously received Tdap.

For routine Tdap use, ACIP recommends a single Tdap dose for persons aged 11 through 18 years who have completed the recommended DTaP vaccination series and for adults aged 19 through 64 years.

Additional *updated* Tdap ACIP recommendations include:

#### Timing of Tdap Following Td

- Tdap vaccination, when indicated, should be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.

#### Undervaccinated Children Aged 7 through 10 years

- Children aged 7 through 10 years who are not fully vaccinated against pertussis (5 doses of DTaP or 4 doses if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday) and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists, should receive a single dose of Tdap to provide protection against pertussis.

For further information on the updated Tdap ACIP recommendations, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6001.pdf>  
(page 13).



## 2010 Stop Flu at School Vaccination Program

In early December, the Department of Health completed the fourth year of Hawaii's annual school-located influenza vaccination program, "Stop Flu at School." Through this voluntary statewide effort, students in grades K-8 in public, private and charter schools are eligible to receive free flu vaccine, administered at their school, with parental consent. School faculty and staff are also encouraged to participate.

Between October and December of 2010, over 68,600\* students and 9,500\* faculty and staff were vaccinated at 331 participating schools. The overall vaccination uptake was 46% for students and 43% for adults. Please ask parents of your patients if they were immunized against the flu at school. Students who received vaccine at school were provided a Parent/Guardian Notification Form as confirmation that they received their vaccination.

Student influenza vaccination information will be sent via US mail to providers for those children whose parents completed the "Student's Doctor's Name" field on the child's vaccination consent form. In addition, student influenza vaccination information will be entered into and available via the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR), with the exception of students whose parents elected to decline participation in HIR (i.e., "opt-out"). If you are not a HIR participating provider, but would like more information, please call the Immunization Branch at (808) 586-4665 (Oahu) or 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands).

\*Figures based on preliminary data

# Protect Hawaii's Preteens Vaccinate by 13

The Department of Health Immunization Branch launched a new immunization education campaign, “**Protect Hawaii’s Preteens, Vaccinate by 13,**” to promote recommended immunizations for preteens to protect against pertussis, meningococcal, human papillomavirus and influenza infections.

Parents and guardians of children aged 11 and 12 years are urged to ensure that their preteens are vaccinated against these serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. Print and web-based materials in addition to AdWalls statewide encourage parents to contact their preteen’s doctor or visit [www.vaccinateby13.doh.hawaii.gov](http://www.vaccinateby13.doh.hawaii.gov) for more information about immunizations recommended for preteens. As a result, you may receive calls for information and requests for vaccination appointments. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) currently recommends the following vaccines for all preteens aged 11-12 years:

- One dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine,
- One dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine,
- Three doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for girls, and
- One dose of influenza vaccine annually.

Based on the 2009 National Immunization Survey –Teen Data, Hawaii vaccination coverage estimates among adolescents aged 13-17 years for the recommended vaccines ranged between 38.9% and 51.0% (see table below). These estimates strongly suggest a considerable proportion of Hawaii’s adolescents remain at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases including pertussis, meningococcal infection, and human papillomavirus infection.

	≥ 1 dose of Tdap % (95% CI*)	≥ 1 dose of Meningococcal Vaccine % (95% CI)	≥ 3 doses of HPV % (95% CI)
<b>US National</b>	55.6 (54.3-56.8)	53.6 (52.4-54.9)	26.7 (25.2-28.2)
<b>Hawaii</b>	46.1 (39.3-52.9)	51.0 (44.2-57.7)	38.9 (29.8-48.8)

\*CI = confidence interval

As a healthcare provider, your recommendation plays a key role in a parent’s decision to vaccinate their preteen. We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure Hawaii’s preteens are protected from serious illnesses. To request preteen immunization print materials, please contact the Immunization Branch at 586-8300 (Oahu), 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands).

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