



Hawaii VFC News

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

"Hawaii VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating Vaccines for Children (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.

WINTER ISSUE 2014

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UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY!

Hawaii Immunization Registry: Demo & Update 2014

Join us for a presentation on the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) - past, present, and future. A demonstration of HIR capabilities, including generating data reports, will be provided.

Date: Wed., 2/19/14
Time: 11:30am–1:30 pm
Place: Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, 711 Morton Drive, Honolulu, HI 96858

Cost: \$18 per person, includes lunch

This presentation is coordinated by the Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC). For more information, visit www.immunizehawaii.org.



High Vaccination Rates Help to Rank Hawaii as #1

Last month Hawaii topped the list as healthiest state in the nation, according to the United Health Foundation.

This was an improvement from second place in 2012, and third in 2011.

High immunization coverage among children was noted as one of Hawaii's strengths in this assessment. The kudos for this notable achievement go to you, the providers of these essential medical services. Through your continued and dedicated efforts to educate parents, vaccinate patients and advocate in your

communities, Hawaii's keiki are healthier and so are Hawaii's communities.

Now that the standard has been set, it should be sustained and even surpassed. Continue to vaccinate babies on schedule and don't miss opportunities to vaccinate adolescents. In addition, talk to parents about the benefits of HPV vaccine in the fight against multiple cancers.

Recognition is always nice, but cancer and disease prevention are the true rewards for members of a healthy state.



Talk to the Doc

What is the minimum interval between two doses of hepatitis A vaccine?

The two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine series should be administered a minimum of **6 calendar months** apart.

Hepatitis A vaccine is routinely recommended for all children at age 1 year (i.e., 12 – 23 months). The second dose should be administered a minimum of 6 months after the first dose. For children aged 2 years and older who have not already received the hepatitis A vaccine series, two doses may be administered, separated by 6 to 18 months.

Hepatitis A vaccine is administered intramuscularly (IM). If the second dose is delayed, you do not need to start the series over again. Although it is preferable to use the same product for both doses, data indicate that the two brands of hepatitis A vaccine are interchangeable.



Have You HIR'd?

The Hawaii Immunization Registry reached an important milestone in September 2013 – its fifth year anniversary! Since its initial implementation at 7 sites in September 2008, there are currently 159 HIR providers statewide. Additionally, all VFC providers utilize HIR's vaccine inventory/ordering functions. **As of January 6, 2014, there are close to 600,000 individuals with over 1,947,000 immunizations recorded in HIR.**

Although the majority (67%) of HIR providers are on Oahu, all islands are participating, with 11% from the Big Island, 11% from Kauai, 8% from Maui, 2% from Molokai, and 2% from Lanai. Specialties of participating providers include pediatrics (25%), pharmacies (25%), multi-specialty clinics (13%), internal medicine (9%), family practice (9%) as well as hospitals, community health centers and health insurers. Over 25% of participating providers hand-enter immunization data into HIR. An additional 50% of providers send data to HIR through electronic data-exchange.

In addition to immunization data submitted by authorized participating providers, HIR includes vaccination records from the Stop Flu at School program, the Vaccines for Children program, and the Newborn Hepatitis B vaccination program.

If you are interested in learning to utilize all of HIR's functionality, please contact the HIR Help Desk at (808) 586-4665 or toll-free at (888) 447-1023.

Vaccine Storage – Setting Up Your Storage Unit Properly

Excessive heat or cold exposure can result in the reduction of vaccine potency. Eventually, if the vaccine cold chain is not properly maintained, potency will be lost and vaccines become useless. One way to protect the potency and viability of vaccines is to follow “best practices” regarding proper storage unit setup which includes the following:

- Allow for cold air circulation around the vaccines by leaving space between the vaccines and the storage unit walls and between each large package, block, tray, or bin of vaccines. Packing any vaccine storage unit too tightly can negatively affect the temperature. *Note: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine (MMR) can be stored in a refrigerator or in a freezer. Storing MMR in a freezer can free up space in the refrigerator.*
- Do not store vaccines in the deli, fruit, and vegetable drawers, in the door, or on the floor of the unit. The temperature and/or air flow in these areas may not be stable and may expose vaccines to inappropriate storage temperatures.
- Store water bottles in the refrigerator (door, near the cooling vent, bottom floor) and ice packs in the freezer (top shelf, freezer door) to stabilize the temperatures and minimize temperature excursions that can impact vaccine potency. *Note: Water bottles should be labeled “Do Not Drink”.*
- Trays and uncovered containers may be used to organize vaccine but must not be stacked or placed so closely together that air circulation inside the storage unit is impeded.
- Never store food or beverages inside a vaccine refrigerator or freezer as this would result in frequent opening of the storage unit door, allowing a greater chance for temperature instability and excessive exposure to light. It may also result in spills and contamination inside the unit.
- Vaccines should be kept in their original packaging with the lids in place until ready for administration to protect them from sunlight and fluorescent light.



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