



Inside this Issue

- Vaccine Points
- Have You HIR'd?
HIR Continues to Grow
- Digital Data Loggers
- Talk to the Doc:
Reconstituted Varicella
Vaccine
- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
in Hawaii, 2010-2014
- VFC Reminder
Temperature Logs

Vaccine Points

Would you like to test your knowledge on immunizations? Now you can!

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating VFC providers. This is a way for the Immunization Branch to provide practical and timely vaccine-related information to you in bite-sized pieces.

Many editions have the content in Q and A format, with the answers listed upside down at the bottom of the page.

You can access archived “Vaccine Points” at the following link: <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/home/imm/>



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.

Numbers, Numbers, Numbers

The Immunization Branch loves data and so we wanted to feature a few data-driven articles in in this edition of the Hawaii VFC newsletter.

Please take a moment to read about the number of patient records and total immunizations entered into the HIR to date on page 1. The system has come a long way since 2009!

One of the biggest generators of immunization records into HIR is the annual Stop Flu at School program and registration for the 2015 vaccination clinics has been completed. Clinics are anticipated to operate from October 14th through November 25th.

On page 2, there is an article describing the digital data loggers that will be distributed to VFC Providers over the next two years. These data loggers will provide an accurate and comprehensive report on the temperatures inside your vaccine fridges and freezers, which is a critical step in maintaining vaccine viability.

Also included on page 2 is a table that summarizes the number of probable and confirmed cases in Hawaii of a few common vaccine-preventable diseases over the last 5 years. In 2014 we saw a surge in the number of measles cases. If you missed the Measles 2015 Situational Update presented in March, please view the archived session online: <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/provider-courses/>. It includes information at both a national and local level.

Have You HIR'd?

HIR Continues to Grow. Since its launch in 2008 as a pilot project, HIR has rapidly grown in its number of patient records and immunizations. In September 2009, one year after the start of the pilot project, 1,847 patients and 28,944 immunizations were recorded in HIR.

Today, there are over 736,000 distinct patient records and over 2.8 million immunizations entered into HIR. What's happened since 2009 to prompt such staggering growth?

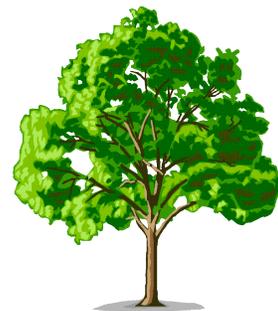
Several factors have contributed to the large increase, including data exchange with electronic health record (EHR) systems.

Data exchange users currently include:

- Safeway and Walgreens pharmacies;
- Hawaii Pacific Health medical centers and clinics, and HealthAdvantage CONNECT private providers;
- Queen's Health Systems medical centers and clinics, and Queen's Connect private providers;
- Kaiser Permanente medical center and clinics;
- Kuakini medical center and Wahiawa General hospital.

In addition, other providers enter their patients' records directly into HIR, including pharmacies like Times, Foodland, KTA, Kmart and Shiigi Drug. VFC eligible patients' records and newborn hepatitis B vaccinations continue to be recorded, and special projects for adults have also generated records in HIR. In addition, records from 2007-2014 Stop Flu at School (SFAS) programs and the 2009 H1N1 vaccination program are included.

As more records are transmitted electronically and more healthcare providers participate in HIR, the number of patient and immunization records will continue to increase dramatically. As HIR data becomes more robust, **the goal to have a complete immunization record for every person in Hawaii will become a reality.**



Digital Data Loggers

CDC now recommends the use of digital data loggers with buffered probes to monitor the temperatures of vaccine refrigerators and freezers.

This type of thermometer is recommended because 1) a buffered probe that measures liquid temperature, rather than ambient air temperature, more accurately reflects the temperature of the vaccine vial, and 2) continuous temperature monitoring and recording provides more accurate and comprehensive documentation of temperature excursions.

Over the next two years, the Immunization Branch will be purchasing digital data logger units for VFC provider use. New data loggers are anticipated to be distributed to providers during their bi-annual VFC compliance site visit.



After carefully evaluating several different digital data loggers, the Berlinger Fridge-tag 2 was found to be the most user-friendly.

Advantages of the Berlinger Fridge-tag 2 include:

- **Easy use.** No software installation is required.
- **Better documentation.** Electronic reports record when twice-daily temperature checks are performed and eliminate data transcription errors.
- **Comprehensive reports.** Detailed reporting functionality provides information on average temperatures per day, daily minimum and maximum temperatures recorded, ambient air temperature, and should an alarm occur, the length of time that temperature limits were exceeded.

- **High accuracy.** Measurement precision that meets all CDC calibration/certification requirements.
- **Proven.** Currently in use by Massachusetts and Tennessee VFC providers.

More information regarding digital data logger implementation in Hawaii VFC provider offices will be provided at a later date. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Hawaii VFC program at (808) 586-8300 or 1-800-933-4832 (toll-free).

TALK TO THE DOC

We drew up a dose of varicella vaccine and ended up not administering it. May we keep this syringe in the refrigerator and use it for another patient tomorrow?

No, you should not keep this dose until the following day. Once a dose of varicella vaccine has been reconstituted (mixed), it must be used within 30 minutes.



All vaccines with diluents should be reconstituted just prior to use to minimize loss of vaccine potency. Always refer to the package insert for instructions *before* reconstituting a vaccine.

For further information on vaccines that require diluents and the time limit before the reconstituted vaccine product must be discarded ("Vaccines with Diluents: How to Use Them"), visit the Immunization Action Coalition website at: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3040.pdf>.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Hawaii, 2010-2014

VPD	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total	Vaccination status		
							Yes	No	Unk
Measles	4	0	0	0	15	19	3	13	3
Mumps	5	3	1	0	1	10	2	2	6
Rubella	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2
Pertussis	66	59	71	50	37	283	64	23	196
Varicella	37	44	45	30	51	207	22	102	83

This table shows the number of confirmed and probable vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) cases reported to the Hawaii Department of Health, including the vaccination status of those cases, for the last five years. The majority of cases were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status.

Improvement of vaccination coverage is essential to reduce and eliminate VPDs in Hawaii.

Recommendations:

- Ensure that all patients are age-appropriately vaccinated
- Immediately notify the Department of Health if you suspect a case of VPD

For more information on reported cases of notifiable diseases in Hawaii, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/10-year-summary-of-reported-cases-of-notifiable-diseases/>.

Definitions:

Confirmed case - meets clinical case description of the disease and has laboratory evidence of the disease, or meets clinical case description and is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case

Probable case - meets clinical case description of the disease but has no laboratory evidence of the disease

VFC Reminder:

All VFC providers are required to submit temperature logs to the Hawaii VFC program each month, regardless of vaccine ordering.



In an effort to "go green," providers are asked to scan and e-mail temp logs to hawaiiivfc@doh.hawaii.gov.

Measles 2015: Situational Update, Clinical Guidance, and Vaccination Recommendations now available online at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/provider-courses/>

Ronald G. Balajadia, MS
Immunization Branch Chief

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION BRANCH
VFC PROGRAM

Danielle Vassalotti
Editor

Telephone: (808) 586-8300 / Fax: (808) 586-8302
Toll Free # for Neighbor Islands: 1-800-933-4832

Contributors

- Noel Jose, RN, Field Reviewer
- Justin Lam, RN, Field Reviewer
- Augustina Manuzak, MPH, PhD, Epidemiological Specialist
- Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH, Pediatrician
- Gail Ogawa, Public Health Educator
- Kit Uyeda, Public Health Educator
- Heather Winfield-Smith, Epidemiological Specialist