



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.

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Call to Action: Healthcare Workers



As VFC providers, you review your patients' immunization records to ensure that they receive all of the recommended immunizations to protect them from vaccine preventable diseases, but when was the last time you checked your own immunization status?

As healthcare workers, you are at risk for exposure to and transmission of serious and sometimes deadly diseases. Make sure your vaccinations are current to help protect yourself, your patients, and your family members.

Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html> for more information on recommended vaccines for healthcare workers.

MEASLES CASES HIGHLIGHT THE NEED TO VACCINATE AND BE PREPARED

Measles outbreaks continue to occur nationwide and around the world. Measles is highly contagious, infecting up to 90% of contacts who are not immune. Prepare your patients and staff now.

PROTECT YOUR PATIENTS: ensure that your patients are age-appropriately vaccinated against measles; infants as young as 6 months of age traveling internationally may receive MMR vaccine (2 doses are still recommended after 12 months of age)

PROTECT YOURSELF: ensure that you and your staff are protected; presumptive evidence of immunity for healthcare workers: documented 2 dose vaccination history, laboratory evidence of immunity, or laboratory confirmed disease

BE ALERT: fever and rash, with cough, coryza, conjunctivitis—think measles

BE PREPARED: triage immediately; have a plan for how and where patients with rash illness will be evaluated, to avoid exposing others in your waiting room

CALL FIRST: measles is an URGENT category notifiable condition; call DOH as soon as a diagnosis of measles is considered or suspected

TEST APPROPRIATELY: obtain specimens [measles serology (IgM and IgG) and throat/nasopharyngeal swab]; notify commercial lab of suspected measles diagnosis prior to sending patient for testing

For more information, visit: <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/home/imm/measles/>.

Tips and Time-savers: Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine



1. Recommend the HPV vaccine series the same way you recommend other pre-teen vaccines. For example, you can say, "Your child is recommended to receive the meningococcal, HPV, and pertussis vaccines today." By "bundling" the vaccines together in one recommendation, you communicate the importance of receiving all of the age-appropriate vaccines.
2. Explain that HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. This message resonates strongly with parents. For example, you can say, "HPV vaccine is very important because it prevents cancer. I want your child to be protected from cancer. That's why I'm recommending that your daughter/son receive the first dose of HPV vaccine today."

For more straightforward messages that work, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/for-hcp-tipsheet-hpv.pdf>.

Have you HIR'd ?



Have you HIR'd that immunization information systems like the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) have been recommended by the Community Preventive Services Task Force on the basis of

strong evidence of effectiveness in increasing vaccination rates?

The Task Force was established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify population-based health interventions that are scientifically proven to save lives, increase lifespans, and improve quality of life. Their recommendation is based on recent findings from a systematic review of 108 published studies and 132 conference abstracts showing that IIS are effective in increasing vaccination rates and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases through their capability to:

- Create or support effective interventions such as client reminder and recall systems, provider assessment and feedback, and provider reminders;
- Determine client vaccination status for decisions made by clinicians, health departments, and schools;
- Guide public health responses to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease;
- Perform assessments of vaccination coverage, missed vaccination opportunities, invalid dose administration, and disparities in vaccination coverage; and
- Facilitate vaccine management and accountability.

By participating in HIR, you are part of a nationwide, evidence-based strategy to improve vaccination rates! If you would like more information about HIR features and functionality, please contact the HIR help desk at 586-4665 (Oahu), 1-888-447-1023 (Neighbor Islands) or registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov.

VFC Reminder:

Postage-paid VFC Business Reply Labels are only to be used for submitting VFC VAVRs. Please **DO NOT USE** VFC labels for any other purpose (e.g., to return expired or wasted vaccines to the Immunization Branch).



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TALK TO THE DOC



We inadvertently administered only the liquid (DTaP/IPV) component of the Pentacel® vaccine and did not use it to reconstitute the Hib component of the combination vaccine. Do we need to re-administer Pentacel®?

Pentacel® does not need to be re-administered. You may count the DTaP/IPV component as valid doses of DTaP and IPV vaccine. This patient will need to receive a dose of Hib vaccine. ActHib® may only be reconstituted with either the DTaP/IPV solution provided with Pentacel® or with the specific ActHib® diluent. If you do not have the appropriate diluent for the Hib vaccine on hand, you will need to contact the manufacturer (sanofi pasteur). To avoid a similar error in the future, review your office's vaccination procedures to ensure that all staff are aware of the correct preparation and administration of Pentacel® vaccine.

Training & Education



NOVA's "Vaccines—Calling the Shots" aired on September 10, 2014 on PBS. This one-hour presentation examines the science behind vaccinations, the return of preventable diseases, and the risks of opting out.

View the full broadcast online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/vaccines-calling-shots.html>.

Influenza Surveillance Report

Influenza surveillance in Hawaii relies upon selected sentinel health practitioners, the State Laboratories Division, private laboratories, and the Office of Health Status Monitoring. For more information regarding Hawaii's influenza surveillance program and to access the current Influenza Surveillance Report from DOH, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/flu-hawaii/surveillance/>.

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