

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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Welcome!

Thanks for subscribing to *Vax Facts*, the North Carolina Immunization Branch's e-newsletter. We hope this will help us stay connected to immunization providers across North Carolina. Feel free to share this document with whomever you choose and encourage your colleagues to subscribe. Sign up instructions are at the end of this e-newsletter.

What's the Immunization Branch Up To?

Program Change: The North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) has changed. The program now supplies vaccine for qualified children only. Qualified children are those who are eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The state is working with local health departments on a transition plan to ensure all children will be appropriately vaccinated before the start of the 2010-2011 school year. Please refer to the [program change page](#) of our website for more information and resources.

It's National Immunization Awareness Month! August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). Help celebrate by making immunizations a special focus of your practice this month. Log on to our [NIAM 2010 web page](#) for more information. Local Health Departments are welcome to use the [resources](#) designed especially for them.

Materials Request Form: A new version of our [Materials Request Form](#) is now available. We've added a web page to our site that includes examples of all the materials we have on hand, so you can preview and print items before ordering them. Please take a moment to order some free resources for your practice.

Regional Trainings: The NCIP is conducting two different regional training workshops: one on the NCIR and a second on program requirements and immunization administration. Nursing contact hours will be provided. Don't miss out on these informative sessions. Log on to the [continuing education page](#) of our website to register for the sessions. Dates and locations are listed below.

	<u>NCIR</u>	<u>NC Immunization Program: Basics and Beyond</u>
Asheville	Tuesday, June 8	Tuesday, August 31
Concord	Tuesday, June 22	Thursday, September 2
Greenville	Thursday, July 29	Tuesday, September 28
Cary, Wake County	Tuesday, July 13	Thursday, September 16
Wilmington	Tuesday, August 17	Thursday, September 23
Winston Salem	Tuesday, August 3	Tuesday, September 14

NCIR Data Entry Assistance: If you are a practice in **Wake, Durham, Chatham, Franklin, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Orange, Granville or Onslow** counties, you are eligible to receive free NCIR data entry assistance. A trained NCIR staff member will come to your office and enter into the NCIR demographic information and historical immunizations for all the 11 and 12 year olds your practice serves. If you are interested in this service, please contact Shirelle Everett at 919-707-5905 or shirelle.everett@dhhs.nc.gov. This opportunity is only available for a limited time, so please act quickly.

Program Requirements: Are You In Compliance?

State-supplied influenza vaccine

Due to a recent program change, state-supplied influenza vaccine will be available only for certain patients this flu season. State-supplied flu vaccine may be given to those who are eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible:

- Medicaid eligible,
- American Indian or Alaskan Native,
- Uninsured, or
- Underinsured children: children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include the vaccines, children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or children whose insurance caps coverage at a certain amount- once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured.

[Tips for screening patients for VFC-eligibility](#) can be found on the Provider Resource Guide page of our website.

As a provider of VFC vaccine, your office should allow patients to come in for immunization-only office visits. Consider reminding your patients that this service is available. Doing so will help ensure cost is not a barrier for vaccinations in your community. You may charge an administration fee to give VFC-vaccine, but you may not charge an office visit fee for an immunization-only visit. Administration fees must be waived for VFC-eligible children whose parents state an inability to pay.

Finally, take a moment to review your storage and handling plans and your disaster recovery plan. Chances are your practice will store a lot of influenza vaccine this season and you don't want to put that inventory in jeopardy. Visit the [Managing Vaccine Supply page](#) of our website to review the [NCIP Minimum Required Vaccine Ordering, Handling, and Storage Procedures](#) document and to download a blank copy of the [Disaster Recovery Plan](#).

NCIR Tips

Managing Your Flu Vaccine Inventory

Be sure to correctly document doses of influenza vaccine administered by your practice. There are two ways to document doses, depending on the type of product administered.

For single-dose vials, prefilled syringes and .5ml doses from multi-dose vials, you need to follow a 9-step process which includes indicating the patient's eligibility, trade name and lot number of the vaccine, and the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) publication date.

For .25ml doses from multi-dose vials, you will need to complete one additional step - indicating the volume (either .25ml or .5 ml).

You may refer to our website for a [step-by-step guide](#) to the process of correctly recording influenza doses in

the NCIR. Feel free to contact the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov if you need additional assistance.

Clinician's Corner

Influenza vaccine recommendations

New for the 2010-2011 flu season:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends universal flu vaccination for **everyone** six months of age and older.
- The 2010-2011 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine will include pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus.
- Health care personnel are particularly encouraged to receive flu vaccine, not only to protect themselves from the disease, but to help prevent transmission of the flu to patients, coworkers, family members and others.

Additional tips for clinicians:

- Look for new influenza VISs coming soon. We'll post them [on our website](#) when they're released.
- Never pre-draw vaccine doses before they are needed! The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) strongly recommends providers draw vaccine only at the time of administration to ensure the cold chain is maintained and vaccine is not inappropriately exposed to light. Although pre-drawing vaccine is generally discouraged, **a limited amount** of vaccine may be pre-drawn in a mass immunization setting **if** certain procedures are followed including: administration of only one vaccine type at the clinic, and only drawing up vaccine after arriving at the clinic site. For the complete list of procedures for pre-drawing vaccine in mass immunization settings, review the [Vaccine Preparation and Disposal section](#) of the NCIRD's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit.
- Hold on to unexpired monovalent H1N1 Vaccine. Monovalent H1N1 flu vaccine should not be used as a substitute for trivalent seasonal flu vaccine. However, if there is a resurgence of 2009 H1N1 disease before the seasonal flu vaccine is available, non-expired monovalent H1N1 vaccine can be used. You can also return unused doses of 2009 H1N1 Vaccine. The CDC's Central Vaccine Recovery Program will accept **ONLY** 2009 H1N1 Vaccine. Review the [memo from June 9, 2010](#) and the [memo from July 23, 2010](#) for details.

Kudos

Western Wake Pediatrics

This practice in Wake County boosted its physical exam visits simply by focusing on adolescent immunizations during the month of April. Staff launched a multifaceted effort to increase adolescent immunization rates by:

- Recalling patients for physical exam visits that included the administration of all appropriate vaccines,
- Assessing patients coming in for sick visits to determine whether they needed additional immunizations,
- Promoting the focus on adolescent immunizations via the practice's newsletter, website and on-hold recording, and
- Engaging parents by discussing the importance of adolescent immunizations.

The staff at Western Wake Pediatrics is thrilled with the results of their efforts. They report a significant increase in the number of physical exam visits from the previous year, a result which far exceeded their expectations at the beginning of the campaign. Parents were happy, too. Many said they didn't know how

important adolescent immunizations are, and were glad to learn about them. The practice plans to continue using innovative ways to promote immunizations.

Kudos to Western Wake Pediatrics for going above and beyond to ensure adolescents are protected from disease!

The Immunization Branch wants to help all our providers increase their adolescent immunization rates. Contact Adolescent Immunization Coordinator Amanda Dayton at amanda.dayton@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-707-5565 to find out how we can help you.

If you would like to recognize an immunization champion with a mention in the Kudos section of *Vax Facts*, send an email to Amy Caruso at amy.caruso@dhhs.nc.gov.

News You Can Use

Mark your calendars now for [Immunization Update 2010](#) on August 5. This live broadcast is held every year by the CDC.

A CDC netconference on immunization is coming up. Register now for the September 2 [Current Issues in Immunization](#) netconference. This one-hour program addresses the most important, late-breaking developments in the field.

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Step One: Send an email to this address: ncip.newsletter-subscribe@lists.ncmail.net. There's no need to include any special instructions in the subject line or in the body of the email message you send.

Step Two: Respond to the system-generated confirmation email. Read this email carefully and follow the included instructions to complete the sign-up process. Please note, you must respond to this system-generated confirmation email within three days. The easiest way to complete the sign-up process is by simply replying to the confirmation email.

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