

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

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?

Hib Booster Requirement Reinstated: The temporary suspension of the requirement for a Hib booster dose has been removed. Because the Hib vaccine shortage has been resolved, the requirement for the Hib booster as per 10A NCAC 41a.0401 has been reinstated effective August 1, 2011. Refer to the [memo dated January 11, 2011](#) for complete details.

Annual Immunization Assessments - Local Health Departments: The 2011 annual immunization assessment process is underway! This year's assessment will evaluate the immunization records of children who are active in the local health department (LHD), as well as those who reside in each county and were born between 10/02/2008 and 10/01/2009. The assessment will evaluate the percentage of children who are up to date with the complete required 4:3:1:3:3:1 series (4DTaP, 3IPV, 1MMR, 3Hib, 3HepB, and 1VAR). Please refer to the [memo dated January 5, 2011](#) for complete details on this process.

NCIP Basics and Beyond Regional Trainings: About 650 people attended our regional trainings on programmatic topics last fall. If you happened to miss the sessions, or would like a recap, log on to our [website](#) to view the PowerPoint presentations. You'll also find a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) compiled during the sessions.

An informal test was given before and after the training sessions. Take a look at the following questions from that test to check your knowledge (find answers at the end of this e-newsletter).

Self Assessment Quiz:

1. What size needle length should be used for patients older than 28 days?
2. What helps regulate temperatures in the refrigerator as well as maintain temperatures in the event of a power outage or mechanical failure?
3. A copy of the Vaccine Information Statement must be given: A) Every time the patient receives a vaccination B) When the patient receives the first dose of vaccine within a particular series (i.e. 1st dose of DTaP) C) Never

Program Change: Remaining [transition](#) vaccine may be administered to children universally, that is, to all children through 18 years of age, regardless of insurance status. Please review the [memo dated January 3, 2011](#) for complete details.

Free Education Materials Available for Order: Visit the Immunization Branch's [Materials Request Page](#) to view, print and order programmatic and educational resources for free. Just download the order form, fill it out, and fax it to us. You'll also find two order forms with resources on special topics. Order [Flu Prevention Resources](#) and [Childhood Immunization Education Resources](#) for your office today!

NCIR Tips

The Light Bulb is Your Friend

Have you noticed that little yellow light bulb in the upper right-hand corner of the NCIR screen? If not, you should get to know it! The light bulb is your link to online assistance. It's an intuitive feature too, because when you click it, it automatically opens a new window with information relevant to the NCIR page you're on.

For example, if you're attempting to run an Accountability Report and need some help, click on the light bulb for information and resources pertaining to this important report. You'll find step-by-step instructions on running an accountability report and tips for interpreting the results.

Get to know this useful tool within the NCIR and you'll save time finding answers and troubleshooting problems. If you still need help, you can always contact the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov.

Online NCIR Classes

Join us for free online NCIR training sessions each month. There is no need to pre-register. Simply log on to the NCIR and look under the Announcements section for a link to join the sessions. You'll also need to dial in via telephone to hear the presentation - just remember to mute your phone! Each session is approximately 30 minutes.

Upcoming online training sessions:

Date	Time	Title	Additional Information
Wednesday, February 9th	9am	What to do with wasted/expired vaccine	Learn how to better manage your inventory in the NCIR by correctly accounting for wasted and expired vaccine.
Wednesday, February 9th	12pm	What to do with wasted/expired vaccine	Learn how to better manage your inventory in the NCIR by correctly accounting for wasted and expired vaccine.

NCIR Definitions

Release: A new version of an application, which usually includes enhancements and software fixes. Each release of an application is indicated with a number; for example, NCIR release version 3.0.

Clinician's Corner

Vaccines for Health Care Workers

With your focus on patients, it may have been awhile since you focused on your own health and checked to see if you are up to date on your immunizations. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend all health care workers be immunized against 10 diseases. Are you?

Health care workers need protection against:

- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Varicella
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, and
- Meningococcal Disease

Health care workers who are appropriately immunized reduce their chances of contracting a preventable disease and passing it along to their patients. That's why some employers require their workers to have some or all of these immunizations.

The term health care worker can apply to individuals in a variety of positions, including: physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals and students, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, hospital volunteers, and administrative staff. Refer to the [December 26, 1997](#) issue of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) for more details on this topic. A useful, one-part chart listing [immunization recommendations for health care workers](#) can be found on the Immunization Action Coalition's website.

Kudos

American Nurses Association

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has an outreach initiative called "Bringing Immunity to Every Community" which focuses on nurses and their role in increasing immunization rates. The initiative has three main goals:

1. Increase the knowledge and competency of nurses in immunization;
2. Get nurses to actively pursue opportunities to be vaccinated; and
3. Position nursing as a champion of immunization to colleagues, patients and the public.

The ANA has a [website](#) dedicated to the effort which includes resources such as educational toolkits, clinical recommendations and guidelines, and tips for communicating health care risks. Log on and take the [Nurse Immunization Pledge](#) today!

Kudos to the ANA for promoting immunizations among some of the most respected, and hardest working health care providers - NURSES!

If you, or someone you know, has been involved in this initiative, we'd love to hear about your experiences! Send an email to Amy Caruso at amy.caruso@dhhs.nc.gov. Send along your ideas for individuals to feature in the Kudos section of *Vax Facts* too.

News You Can Use

Wakefield study cited as fraud

An analysis by a British journalist finds Andrew Wakefield doctored facts about patients in his 1998 study which linked the MMR vaccine to autism. The analysis was published in the journal, *BMJ*. An editorial in that issue calls the Wakefield study a fraud and calls into question all Wakefield's work. Read the [article and the editorial](#) on BMJ's website and check out the Immunization Action Coalition's in-depth webpage dedicated to [the fraud behind the MMR scare](#).

Flu Deaths in NC

The state has recorded two deaths from flu in children and three in adults since late December. It's a somber reminder that flu season is here and vaccination efforts must continue. Everyone over six months of age should receive the flu vaccine. Please keep vaccinating!

Gardasil

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the vaccine Gardasil for the prevention of anal cancer and associated precancerous lesions due to human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18 in males and females ages 9 through 26 years. Learn more online at the [FDA's website](#).

Answers to Self Assessment Quiz

1. One inch
2. Water bottles
3. A) Every time the patient receives a vaccination

Subscribe to Vax Facts

Please follow the instructions below to add yourself to our contact list.

Step One: Send an email to this address: ncip.eneewsletter-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.

Step Three: Look for a system-generated welcome message. Once you receive this message, you will be signed up to receive Vax Facts.

You may unsubscribe by sending an email to: ncip.eneewsletter-unsubscribe@lists.ncmail.net.

Contact Information

NC Immunization Branch • 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699

Phone: 919-707-5550 • Fax: 919-870-4824 • Website: www.immunizenc.com

Help Desk • Phone: 877-873-6247 • Fax: 800-544-3058 • Email: ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov