

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

Mar. 1 , 2012

Volume 3, Number 3

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 Going On In the Immunization Branch?

Current Status of State Supplied Influenza Vaccine

The Immunization Branch is now out of state-supplied influenza vaccine in 0.25 mL prefilled syringes. However, there are still several other influenza vaccine products available for the 2011-2012 season. Providers may continue to order additional influenza vaccine until supplies have been exhausted. Influenza vaccine provided through the NCIP may be administered to anyone over six months of age, regardless of insurance status. Click [here](#) for more information.

Love Them. Protect Them. Immunize Them.

[National Infant Immunization Week](#) will be held from April 21-28. The Immunization Branch website will soon have more information on how you can promote this week at your facility.

Information Right at Your Fingertips!

Did you know that the Immunization Branch website, www.immunize.nc.gov, contains a wealth of information? You can find details about the basics of vaccine preventable diseases and vaccines, and NCIR training resources on our site, as well as order free materials for your practice or patients. Be sure to review our website frequently, so that you can take full advantage of what it has to offer, as well as to stay up-to-date on what's going on in world of vaccines.

North Carolina Immunization Program Recognized by CDC

The North Carolina Immunization Program was recognized by the CDC for having the second highest coverage rate (76.2 percent) for pneumococcal vaccine for adults 65 years and older. Pneumococcal vaccination coverage reflects many years of effort to reach targeted adults. The award was presented during the immunization program managers meeting in February.

Annual Local Health Department Assessment

Each year the IB conducts an assessment to determine the percentage of children that are up-to-date on recommended vaccines by the age of two. In 2011, both the average local health department rate (88 percent) and the average county rate (65 percent) increased by two percentage points from 2010. To learn more about the assessment click [here](#).

Hallmark Greeting Cards

Hallmark supplies free greeting cards to birthing hospitals to send to parents of newborns as part of its For

"America's Babies" campaign. For more information or to order more cards contact Michele Burton at 919-707-5555.

NCIR Tips

NCIR Light Bulb Icon

Anytime you find yourself needing help in the NCIR, click the light bulb. This feature will give you information on the particular page that you are on, eliminating the need to resort to the user manual. In order to use the light bulb feature, pop-up blockers must be disabled.

Online NCIR Classes

Join us for free online NCIR training sessions on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. with a repeat session at 1 p.m. 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.

New for 2012

Once a quarter, the Immunization Branch staff will offer an online NCIR training session for providers and staff that are new to the NCIR. The first quarterly webinar will be held on March 14.

Upcoming online training sessions:

Date	Time	Title	Additional Information
March 14	9 a.m. and 1 p.m.	New NCIR Users Webinar	

Clinician's Corner

Vaccine Site Administration

Appropriate vaccine administration is a critical component of a successful immunization program, and for this reason, providers need to orient their new staff to vaccines used in their office. All personnel who will administer vaccines should receive competency-based training and education on vaccine administration before providing vaccines to patients.

The "Rights of Medication Administration" should be applied to each encounter when vaccines are administered. These rights include:

- The right patient
- The right vaccine
- The right time (administering at the correct age, appropriate interval and before vaccine expires)
- The right dosage
- The right route, needle length and technique
- The right site
- The right documentation

Information covering each of these rights regarding vaccine site administration can be found in [Appendix D](#) of the Pink Book and through a PowerPoint presentation located on the [IB website](#).

News You Can Use

2012 Vaccine Immunization Schedules: The 2012 child/adolescent and adult immunization schedules have been published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They are available on the [IB website](#).

Vaccination Information Statement Updates: The following Vaccine Information Statements have been updated.

[Hepatitis B](#) (Feb. 12)

[HPV Gardasil](#) (Feb. 22)

Kudos

New Hanover Regional Medical Center was recognized for its efforts to prevent the spread of the flu virus during the 2010-2011 flu season. The hospital received the Gold Award in the Flu Vaccination Challenge by Joint Commission Resources, which recognizes hospitals and medical facilities that have flu vaccination rates among employees greater than 95 percent.

As a result of increased employee vaccinations, the hospital reported 7,000 fewer sick day hours used by staff members between October 2010 and March 2011 as compared to the same period the previous year.

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.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.

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.newsletter-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.immunize.nc.gov

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

State of North Carolina | Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health | Immunization Branch
www.ncdhhs.gov

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 3/12


