

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 Going on at the Immunization Branch?

Upcoming Changes Coming to the North Carolina Immunization Program

Effective, Oct. 1, some important federally-required changes will take place that will affect the North Carolina Immunization Program. While we do not have complete details, we do want to make you aware that the changes will impact underinsured children, as well as vaccine for insured patients. Please refer to the [memos](#) dated May 29 on the Immunization Branch website for more information. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Media Campaign Gains National Recognition

The Immunization Branch's 2011 media campaign videos "[Vaccinations Protect Generations](#)" recently won a Communicator Award of Distinction.

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program recognizing big ideas in marketing and communications. The Communicator Awards honors work that transcends innovation and craft – work that made a lasting impact. The Award of Distinction is presented for projects that exceed industry standards in quality and achievement.

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Visit the Immunization Branch website for more information and free downloadable materials [here](#).

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.

Are You in Compliance?

Have You Updated Your Disaster Recovery Plan?

With the 2012 hurricane season in full swing, North Carolina is not safe from the threat of severe storms that this time of the year can bring.

Now is a good time to update your [Disaster Recovery Plan](#). Providers are required to review and update the contact lists in the plan quarterly; review and update the entire plan annually. The completed plan is required to be posted on or near the vaccine storage equipment at all times. Ensure that all staff (current and new) read the plan and understand it.

Also ensure that janitorial and security staff are aware of the plan and know the procedures to follow for notifying designated personnel about any problems with the vaccine storage equipment. The plan must include guidance on what to do in the event of refrigerator or freezer malfunctions, power failures, natural disasters, or other emergencies. The emergency plan should include:

- Name of person(s) responsible for preparing and transporting vaccine, including contact information.
- How this person will be notified that vaccine needs to be moved and the location that will receive vaccine.
- How receiving location will be notified of transport.
- How to pack vaccine for transport.
- How to document the steps taken when vaccine is involved in a power or equipment failure.

In advance of an emergency, all providers should:

- Identify an alternative storage facility (i.e. hospital, health department, fire department, etc.) with back-up power (generator) where the vaccine can be properly stored and monitored for the interim.
- Ensure the availability of staff to pack and move the vaccine.
- Maintain the appropriate packing materials (coolers, gel packs, etc.)
- Ensure a means of transport for the vaccine to the secure storage facility.
- Fill the empty space in your refrigerator with jugs of water and line the sides and bottom of your freezer with ice packs. In the event that your refrigerator/freezer is out of order, this practice will help maintain the temperature for a longer period of time.
- Train staff on the proper way to transport vaccine.

NOTE: Whenever possible, facilities should suspend vaccine activities **BEFORE** the onset of emergency conditions to allow sufficient time for packing and transporting vaccine.

The North Carolina Immunization Program Disaster Recovery Plan can be found in the NCIP Requirements section under the Health Care Providers tab of the [Immunization Branch website](#).

Kudos

Congratulations to **Blue Ridge Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine** in Watauga County for increasing their adolescent coverage rates. The nursing staff has worked hard to enter historical and demographic information into the NCIR and has sent out many reminder postcards to ensure their adolescents are getting immunized! The Blue Ridge Pediatric team is currently working on updating the NCIR information for other age groups, as well. Their hope is that they'll be able to increase vaccination rates for patients of all ages in their practice.

Most Current VISs

As of August 1, 2012, the most recent versions of the [Vaccine Information Statements \(VIS\)](#) are as follows:

DTap/DT	5/17/07	MMR	4/20/12
Hepatitis A	10/25/11	MMRV	5/21/10
Hepatitis B	2/12/12	PCV13	4/16/10
Hib	12/16/98	PPSV	10/6/09
HPV - Cervarix	5/3/11	Polio	11/8/11
HPV - Gardasil	2/22/12	Rabies	10/6/09
Influenza (inactive)	7/2/12	Rotavirus	12/6/10
Influenza (live)	7/2/12	Shingles	10/6/09
Japanese encephalitis	12/7/11	Td/Tdap	1/24/12
Meningococcal	10/14/11	Typhoid	5/29/12
Multi-vaccine (VIS) (for 6 vaccines given to infants/children: DTap, IPV, Hib, Hep B, PCV, RV)	9/18/08	Varicella	3/13/08
		Yellow fever	3/30/11

Outreach & Initiatives



The Surry County Health and Nutrition Center in Dobson, utilizes "Puddin" their pediatric mascot, to get the word out to all families about the importance of children receiving their immunizations.

"Puddin" can be found wandering through the clinic setting, at health fairs and other community events distributing information encouraging parents to protect their children from childhood diseases.

Surry County's dedication to ensure their county's children are vaccinated is noted in their 96% immunization rate.

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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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Contact Information

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

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