

Vaccine News

Island County Public Health July 2009

Welcome to our 40th issue of "Vaccine News". The purpose of this newsletter is to update local providers on issues pertaining to immunizations.

Immunization questions? Please call Caroline at 240-5554 extension 22, Melinda at 221-8482 or Janet at 387-0184.

HIB vaccine

Good news! There is sufficient vaccine to reinstate the fourth dose. The Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile announced that providers ordering state-supplied vaccine may plan for this with their orders this month. There won't be enough to immediately recall all children who need this dose, but providers may certainly begin the process.

Measles

Last edition I noted that six cases of measles were reported in April to the Pennsylvania Department of Health with additional cases awaiting confirmation. The index case was someone who had traveled from India in March. More cases have been reported since by health departments in Iowa, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

The total for this year through June 30th is 34 cases. The average number of cases in the U.S. in a year is 50. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

noted in an August 2008 edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, "Measles is one of the first diseases to reappear when vaccination coverage rates fall."

PPSV Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

A new VIS was published for this vaccine in April. You may access it at

www.immunize.org/vis/pneum3.pdf

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV)

The CDC has issued interim guidance on the use of PPSV during the novel influenza A (H1N1) outbreak. They recommend a single dose of the vaccine for all people 65 years of age and older and for persons two through 64 years with certain high-risk conditions. People in these groups are at increased risk of pneumococcal disease as well as serious complications from influenza of any strain. A single revaccination at least five years after the initial vaccination is recommended for those 65 years and older who were first vaccinated before age 65 as well as for people at highest risk, such as those without a spleen and those who have HIV infection, AIDS or malignancy or have had a bone marrow or organ transplant. Emphasis should be placed on vaccinating people less than 65 years of age who have established high-risk conditions because PPSV coverage in this group is low and those in this group appear to be overrepresented among severe cases of

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novel influenza A (H1N1) infection.
(Immunization Works, CDC, June 30, 2009)

More information on PPSV, including the complete list of those who should receive this vaccine, is available at www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2015.pdf

Guide to Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions

The CDC published a new edition in April. Rather than reading through the very fine print in the package insert, the information (that I always seem to find only after reading it through three times) is right at your fingertips. I find it especially handy when a client has listed an allergy. I certainly don't have every ingredient in every vaccine memorized! You may access it at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/downloads/contraindications-guide-508.pdf>

Video of the Week

The Immunization Action Coalition began posting a video every week this year on their website. The one to which I'd like to call your attention was posted April 27th. Featuring Dr. Jeanne Santoli of the CDC, it is intended to help you answer questions from parents about childhood immunizations.

Also, they have had videos about the importance of hand washing, polio, and the only known rabies disease survivor. A new one is posted each Monday. Check it out!

State-Supplied Influenza Vaccine

Please don't forget to return any unused syringes, single-dose vials or unopened multidose vials of this vaccine to McKesson. DOH will receive a refund of the Federal Excise Tax for the returned doses.

Abbreviations used in this newsletter:

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DOH Washington State Department of Health

IAC Immunization Action Coalition

IPCP Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile

VIS Vaccine Information Statement