



Immunization Practices Enhancement (IPE) Project Update



LABioMed
Los Angeles
Biomedical
Research Institute
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

The past few months have been a very busy time in the immunization arena, with several new vaccines and changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices schedule released. To make it easier for you to review these changes, Immunize LA Kids has taken the opportunity to compile some of the notable changes in this project update. If you have any questions, please contact Tamekia at 323-757-7244, extension 281.

New Combination Vaccine Available to Prevent Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine

Great news! A new combination vaccine is available for your patients aged 12 months -12 years. In fall 2005, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed use of the MMRV vaccine for children aged 12 months -12 years. It is a combination of the measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines that can possibly reduce the number of shots your patients receive. The MMRV vaccine, also known as ProQuad, is distributed by Merck.

MMRV is now available through the Los Angeles County Immunization Program for public providers and the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) Program for private providers. The MMRV vaccine can be ordered using your newly updated VFC order form. You may also contact your VFC representative for more information on ordering MMRV.

For more information about the MMRV vaccine, please see the enclosed *MMWR Weekly Report* from December 2, 2005, Vol 54, #47 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5447.pdf> or visit Merck's website at www.merck.com.

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendations Updated by ACIP

Hepatitis A vaccine universally recommended for all children at age 1 year (12-23 months)

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended Hepatitis A vaccine for **all** children at age 1 year (12-23 months). The 2 doses in the series should be administered at least 6 months apart. Hepatitis A vaccine was previously recommended for children at 2 years of age in selected states having an incidence of Hepatitis A disease greater than twice the national average.

For more information please see the enclosed *MMWR Weekly Report* from January 6, 2006/54(52);Q1-Q4 or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5451-Immunizationa1.htm>.

ACIP recommends universal birth dose of Hepatitis B Vaccine

Soon your practice will be seeing more newborns coming to their first well-child visit with a birth dose of Hepatitis B. The ACIP has recommended a universal birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine. Vaccination of infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-negative mothers can be delayed in rare circumstances, but only if a physician's order to withhold the vaccine and a copy of the mother's original HBsAg-negative laboratory report are in the infant's medical record. If the birth dose is withheld, the first dose should be provided at no later than 2 months of age. ACIP states that administering four doses of Hepatitis B vaccine is permissible (e.g., when combination vaccines are administered after the birth dose); however, if monovalent Hepatitis B vaccine is used, a dose at age 4 months is not needed, and the third dose must be given on or after 24 weeks of age.

For more information, please see the enclosed *MMWR Weekly Report* from January 6, 2006/54(52);Q1-Q4 and the *MMWR Recommendations and Reports* from December 23, 2005/54(RR16);1-23 or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5451-Immunizationa1.htm> and http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5416a1.htm?s_cid=rr5416a1_e.

Whooping Cough cases are increasing at an alarming rate. What can you do to stop its spread?

Whooping cough (pertussis) is at historically high levels in Los Angeles County. The number of reported whooping cough cases in the County increased significantly in the past year. Four hundred thirty three cases of whooping cough have been reported for 2005, exceeding the total number of cases reported in 2004 by more than 200 percent. You can help prevent and stop the alarming spread of whooping cough by:

- ✓ Providing children in your practice with all four recommended doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) vaccine at 2,4,6 and 15-18 months of age.
- ✓ Preventing the spread of whooping cough to infants by providing one of the two recently approved Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines to adolescents and eligible adults. For more information, please see the enclosed excerpt from the *MMWR Recommendations and Reports* from March 24, 2006/55(RR03);1-34 or access the complete recommendations at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5503a1.htm?s_cid=rr5503a1_e. Tdap can be ordered through the Los Angeles County Immunization Program for public providers and the VFC Program for private providers using your standard VFC order form. Contact your regional VFC representative for more information.
- ✓ Playing the new Immunize LA Kids Whooping Cough Awareness PSA to raise awareness about the importance of vaccinating children after they turn 12 months of age. The PSA will be airing soon on local radio stations. Play the PSA over your office PA system or as a hold message during patient calls to promote vaccination. To request a free copy of the PSA on CD, please contact Tamekia Mosley at 323-757-7244, extension 281 or tmosley@slahp.org.

Have you ordered your mercury-free influenza vaccine for the 2006-2007 season?

Prepare for the 2006-2007 flu season now, by placing your order for mercury-free flu vaccine. The Mercury-Free Act of 2004, which takes effect July 1, 2006, limits the administration of mercury-containing vaccines to pregnant women and children younger than 3 years old.

The following mercury and thimerosal-free vaccines are available for use with children under 3 years of age and pregnant women.

- Sanofi Pasteur's Fluzone prefilled syringes, which are licensed for children under 3 years of age, meet the state's mercury-free requirements.
- GlaxoSmithKline's Fluarix prefilled syringes and Sanofi Pasteur's preservative-free Fluzone single dose syringes and multidose vials are licensed for use in pregnant women and meet the state's mercury-free requirements.

These vaccines are available through the Los Angeles County Vaccine for Children Program. Contact your VFC representative for more information about ordering mercury-free vaccines. For more information, consult the enclosed January 11, 2006 State of California Department of Health Services memo.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 22-29, 2006, is just around the corner. NIIW is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and focus on the importance of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases by age two. Since 1994, NIIW has provided an opportunity for local and state health departments, immunization partners, healthcare providers, and community leaders to highlight the positive impact of immunization on the lives of infants and children and to call attention to immunization achievements. California's NIIW theme is "Community Immunity...Protect Your Child, Protect Your Community". A decision to immunize is a decision to protect not only an individual, but the entire community, because high immunization coverage levels protect immunized AND unimmunized children.

How can your clinic celebrate NIIW?

1) **Support Immunize LA Kids' NIIW Health Fair:**

- Spread the news about our health fair by posting and distributing the enclosed health fair flyers.
- Donate a "Family Size First Aid Kit" to be given to one of the first 50 families attending the health fair.

Immunize LA Kids, along with South LA Health Projects WIC Program, First Five LA and the Office of Councilwoman Jan Perry, is hosting an outdoor/street health fair **on Saturday, April 29, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at 41st and S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, 90037.** Free immunizations will be provided along with other free health services, including dental and vision screenings, blood pressure and cholesterol testing, and diabetes screenings. For more information, please contact Lizz Romo at 323-757-7244, ext. 231 or lromo@slahp.org.

- 2) **Offer "walk-in" appointments for immunizations only.** During NIIW, from April 22-29, 2006, provide immunizations on a "walk-in" basis to parents "walking in" or "calling in" requesting an appointment to get their child immunized.
- 3) **Play the Immunize LA Kids new "Whooping Cough" PSA over your office PA system or as a hold message during patient calls.** (Please see whooping cough article above for more information.)
- 4) **Share your practice's innovative strategies used to improve your immunization rates.** Send us a short description of innovative strategies your practice has used to help improve immunization rates by April 30, 2006 and your office will be entered into a drawing to win its choice of:
 - A \$20 gift certificate to an office supply store *OR*
 - A \$20 gift certificate to the University of California online medical bookstore *OR*
 - A supply of Immunize LA Kids incentive items and educational brochures for your office

OR

 - A \$50 scholarship to attend the California REACH 2010 Ethnic Disparities Conference to be held May 17 and 18 in Los Angeles. (Please see the related article below.)

Selected strategies will be shared in our future IZ LA Kids Immunization Practices Enhancements Updates!

We need your help! Share your ideas regarding a new Immunize LA Kids poster for a chance to receive a gift of your choice.

Immunize LA Kids is always looking for new ways to help our physician offices promote immunizations. Recently, we asked several participating physicians for their ideas for resources we can provide to encourage parents to vaccinate their children on-time. Terence Tan, MD of Lynwood suggested we provide a poster reminding parents that their children can often receive shots when they are sick with a mild illness. We were not able to find a poster that addresses this important message, so are developing one to provide to your offices at no charge.

IZ LA Kids identified a simple message for the poster and would love for you to share your ideas to help us make the poster clear, effective, and attention-grabbing! Please complete and fax the enclosed survey by April 30, 2006 to Tamekia Mosley at 323-779-1190. The first three offices to fax their completed surveys will receive their choice of one of the following:

- A \$20 gift certificate to an office supply store OR
- A \$20 gift certificate to the University of California online medical bookstore OR
- A supply of Immunize LA Kids incentive items and educational brochures for your office OR
- A \$50 scholarship to attend the California REACH 2010 Ethnic Disparities Conference to be held May 17 and 18 in Los Angeles. (Please see the related article below.)

If you have other ideas for tools that can help you encourage parents to vaccinate their children on-time, please share them with Tamekia at tmosley@slahp.org or 323-757-7244, extension 281.

Learn about successful strategies for addressing ethnic health disparities. Don't miss the 2006 California REACH 2010 Ethnic Disparities Conference in Los Angeles.

Join us for the 2006 California REACH 2010 Conference, entitled "Looking Back, Moving Forward" on May 17 and 18 at the Wilshire-Grand Los Angeles. IZ LA Kids is cosponsoring this exciting event. The conference's objectives are:

1. To share successful strategies for eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.
2. To discuss collaborative actions to improve racial and ethnic health outcomes.
3. To develop and strengthen linkages between community organizations, government agencies, and health care providers.

The event will feature a number of engaging plenary sessions and breakout sessions that highlight strategies for eliminating health disparities in: infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, HIV Infections/AIDS, and child and adult immunizations. Register online at www.careach2010conference.org or return the enclosed registration form with your payment. Remember, if you complete our poster survey or share an innovative strategy, you may win a scholarship to attend the conference.

If you have questions, are interested in assistance with your immunization systems, or would like to obtain educational materials, please contact our Immunization Warm Line at 323-757-7244, extension 281.