

FALL
2003

CIRnews

Citywide Immunization Registry, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

We help you call the shots!



Back-to-School Rush!

During this busy time, The CIR can make your life a little easier. To get a patient's immunization record faxed to your office in minutes, call our friendly staff at (212) 676-2323 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

If you use the Internet, you can print the record yourself from our Online Registry. To get a user ID and password, just give us a call.

Also, you may want to tell parents they can request their children's records directly from the CIR by filling out a simple form. They can call us for the form or download from our website:

www.nyc.gov/health/cir.

Varicella Requirements for the 2003-2004 School Year

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the varicella requirements for the 2003-2004 school year.

Documentation of immunization with varicella vaccine is required for school attendance for all children born on or after January 1, 1998.

These children will be entering kindergarten in September 2003. In addition, children born on or after January 1, 2000 must have evidence of varicella immunization to attend any day-care, pre-

Update: Medicaid Managed Care Recall Project

Thanks to all who reviewed and returned the Immunization Verification Reports so far. A total of 38,928 verification reports (one per child not up-to-date according to CIR) were sent to primary care providers designated by the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, with the request that the provider verify the report (i.e., compare against the chart and make any additions or corrections) and fax it back to CIR. Providers are also encouraged to recall those children found to be in need of immunizations.

As of August 5, 2003, a total of 15,766 immunization record verification reports (40.5%) were returned to CIR by primary care providers or facility administrative contacts. We are now adding the new immunizations reported. We thank you for your continued participation in the Recall Project, and ask those who have not yet returned your verification reports to do so as soon as possible.

school, nursery or pre-kindergarten program. A history of varicella disease as documented by a health care provider licensed to practice in New York or serologic proof of immunity to varicella are also accepted for school attendance.

We urge you to use every office visit as an opportunity to assure that children of all ages who do not have a reliable history of varicella disease receive age-appropriate vaccination. Questions? Call Dr. Sheila Palevsky at the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2264.



Quarterly Feature: Practice of the Quarter

Lenox Hill Community Medical Center

The Lenox Hill Community Medical Center has been reporting immunizations online since October 2002 and regularly prints out official immunization records for parents.

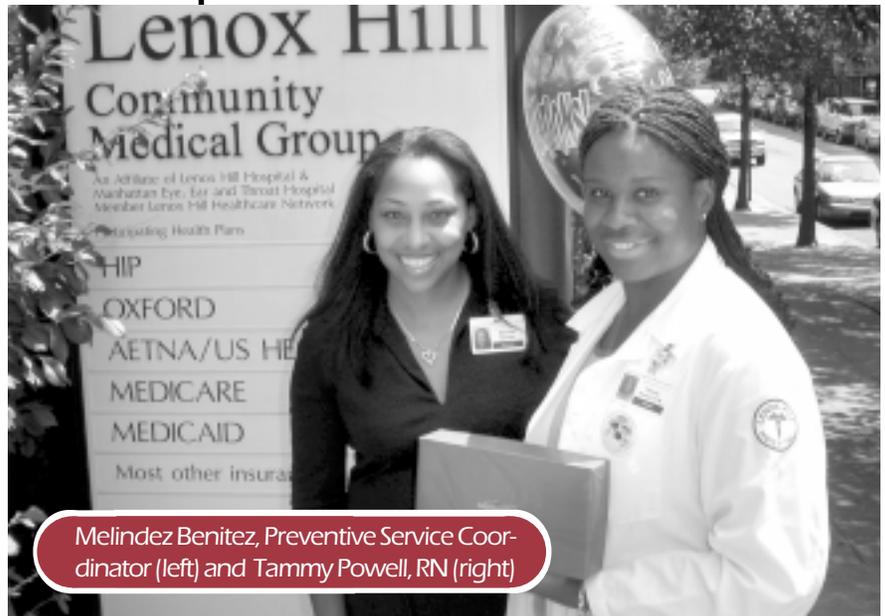
The staff immunizes approximately 50 patients a week and inputs these immunizations into the Online Registry every day. With school back in session, this friendly staff appreciates the easy

“The website is very clear and neat, it enables you to see vaccines given and it is very helpful during audits.”

access to immunization records. They just print records to give to parents or request a fax be sent directly to a patient’s school. They also like the “modify history” screen, which allows them to update a child’s address. Tammy Powell, RN stated, “the Online Registry is good for parents to get

records easily and to update their children’s contact information.” The staff also tells parents they can request their children’s records directly from the CIR by calling (212) 676-2323.

The Online Registry assists this practice in making sure their patients get all the immunizations they need. The staff checks the Online Registry to see what vaccinations are due. Melinda Benitez, Preventive Service Coordinator says “the website is very clear and



Melindez Benitez, Preventive Service Coordinator (left) and Tammy Powell, RN (right)

neat, it enables you to see vaccines given and it is very helpful during audits.”

The CIR commends the staff of Lenox Hill Community Medical Center for their hard work and dedication to their patients.

We thank them for their continued support of the Citywide Immunization Registry.

Vaccines and The Blackout

Immediately following the power outage of August 14, the DOHMH received over 300 calls from providers asking for assistance in evaluating the vaccine in their refrigerator. Vaccine specific information has been sent out via broadcast fax and posted on the internet at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/pdf/hcp/03hn01.pdf>

If you did not receive a fax, please be certain to let us know what your correct fax number is. If your office has a question about your vaccine, consult this site or call the VFC Program at 212-447-8175.

New Email, Fax & Phone to Order Forms!

Effective immediately: To Order Immunization Registry Reporting Forms (Imm 30A) email cirforms@srcp.com, call (800) 238-0130 or fax (212) 208-4641.

Reporting Reminder

You must report immunizations to the CIR regardless of whether or not you use VFC vaccines. The Health Code requires ALL NYC providers to report immunizations given to children age seven and under within 14 of administration.

Ordering VFC Vaccine

To order free (VFC) vaccine, private providers should now call 212-447-8175 or fax orders to 212-442-5194. Public providers should continue to call 212-447-2553 or fax to 212-447-2558.

If you would like our new brochures and poster for your office, call us at 212-676-2323.