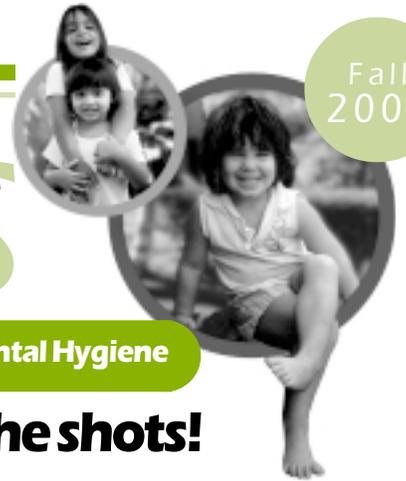


CIRnews

Fall
2004

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

We help you call the shots!



Beat The School Rush!

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

If you use the Internet, you can look up and print your patients' immunization records yourself from our Online Registry. To get a user ID and password, call us at (212) 676-2323.

You may also want to tell parents that they can request a free, official immunization record for their child by contacting CIR directly and filling out a simple application. They can call us at (212) 676-2323 for the application or download it from our Web site: www.nyc.gov/health/cir

Flu Season is Coming!

Influenza vaccine is now recommended annually for all healthy children aged 6 - 23 months.

Please visit www.cdc.gov/flu or call the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Immunization, at 212-676-2259 for more information.

Vaccine Storage and Handling

The continued success of immunization in reducing illness and death from vaccine-preventable diseases depends upon proper storage and handling of vaccines.

Vaccines are fragile biological products that must be stored and handled very carefully. The different types of vaccine have different properties and different storage requirements.

Inactivated vaccines must be stored at temperatures between 2-8 C (35-46 F). These vaccines must *not* be exposed to freezing temperatures. The live attenuated viral vaccines (i.e., MMR, Varicella, LAIV) are destroyed by heat. Varicella and LAIV must be kept frozen at temperatures colder than 5 F (-15 C) in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications; MMR may be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. The refrigerator/freezer is an integral piece of medical equipment and must meet all specifications.

If vaccine has not been stored appropriately, it should not be used! Mark spoiled or expired vaccines and keep them separated from the rest of your supply - and call (212) 447-8175 for advice.

For more details see www.cdc.gov/nip/home-hcp.htm.

Visit Us Online! nyc.gov/health/cir



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
City of New York
Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE



Quarterly Feature: Providers of the Quarter



Buenaventura Pelina, MD

Best of the Best

Join us in celebrating the best of the best!

The CIR honored three providers for outstanding use of the CIR at the Immunization Conference held in

April at the New York Academy of Medicine. These outstanding providers were:

- Buenaventura Pelina, MD
- Tulio Gomez, MD
- Greenpoint Pediatric Center, represented by Hector Florimon, MD.

The Bureau of Immunization's Assessments Team also honored five providers for high immunization coverage:

- Louisa Ramone, MD
- Sherif Zaki-Wahba, MD
- Melvin Koplow, DO
- Greenpoint Community Health Center
- Dyckman Clinica de las Americas

We congratulate these providers, and their staff, and commend them for their dedication to quality patient care.

Spreading Immunization Best Practices

DOHMH is launching a major initiative to assist all NYC primary care practices serving children in implementing practical, sustainable, and evidence-based strategies to improve immunization delivery and, ultimately, immunization rates.

Contact Dr. Denise Benkel at 212-676-1447 or dbenkel@health.nyc.gov if you are interested in participating in the early phases of the initiative.

Ordering VFC Vaccine

The CIR now generates VFC vaccine doses administered reports for public and private health care providers every month. These reports are used to account for the provider's use of VFC vaccine shipped to the provider. There is a comparison of immunizations reported to the CIR and the quantity of vaccines ordered.

By documenting the immunizations you administer in the CIR, you will ensure that an adequate supply of VFC vaccine will continue to be shipped to your office.

To order free (VFC) vaccine:

Private providers:	Public providers:
call 212-447-8175	call 212-447-2553
fax 212-442-5194	fax 212-447-2558

Immunization Coalition Meeting

The next meeting of the NYC Coalition for Immunization Initiatives will be Friday, September 10, 2004, from 10 am – 12 pm, in the 3rd Floor Board Room of 125 Worth Street, Manhattan.

Come and learn about new developments in immunization and new ways to improve immunization coverage rates among New York City's children. For more information, call (212) 676-2323.

Our Mission: To improve the immunization status of all NYC children by consolidating immunization information and sharing it with health care providers, families, and agencies concerned with children's health.