CIR news

Winter 2005

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

We help you call the shots!

It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate!

The Bureau of Immunization has influenza vaccine available. If you have high-risk patients who have not yet been vaccinated because you lacked vaccine, please order it and recall those patients.

Vaccine for Vaccines For Children (VFC)-eligible children may be ordered by calling 212-447-8175.

Vaccine for other children may be purchased by completing a request at www.nyc.gov/health/flusurvey

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the VFC program have expanded recommendations for children and adolescents to receive influenza vaccine. Targeted groups now include:

- all children ≥6months to 23 months of age;
- all children ≥6months to 18 years of age with chronic illness;
- all children ≥6months to 18 years on long-term aspirin therapy;
- all children ≥6months to 18 years who are residents of long-term care facilities ;
- any child or adolescent who will be in any stage of pregnancy during the influenza season;
- all children ≥6months to 18 years who are household contacts of persons in high-risk groups.

Children ≥6 months through 8 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time should receive two doses separated by at least 4 weeks. Children ≥6 months through 35 months of age should receive a 0.25 mL dose; children ≥ 3 years should receive 0.5mL.

Do not hold vaccine in reserve for this second dose; do not delay the second dose if the child is in the office.

Influenza disease typically peaks in late January through March. There have been outbreaks of influenza as late as May. It is not too late to vaccinate even into the spring.

Children may receive flu vaccine until the vaccine expires, June 30, 2005. If a child under 9 years of age receives at least one dose of vaccine this year, they will require only one dose of vaccine next flu season (2005-2006). Influenza vaccine may be administered along with any other routinely recommended vaccine.

All doses of any vaccine administered to children <8 years of age in NYC must be reported to the CIR. Doses of vaccine given to children 8-18 years of age may be reported with parental/guardian consent (note: consent forms are available from CIR).

Are You Exempt?

VFC Provider Report

Please note that if you regularly report immunizations to the CIR, you may be exempt from filling out the VFC Provider report. Please call Barbara Shields for more information at 212-447-8175.

Visit Us Online! nyc.gov/health/cir

TAKE CARE NEW YORK

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

The Citywide Immunization Registry 125 Worth St. CN #64R, New York, NY 10013 - (212) 676-2323 - fax (212) 676-2314

Quarterly Feature: Practice of the Quarter

Dr. Eddie Yang

Doctor Eddie Yang and his staff demonstrate outstanding effort to make sure that their patients are up-to-date for immunizations. They also takes their responsibility to report very seriously, ensuring that immunizations are reported within 14 days of administration, as mandated by the NYC Health Code.

On average, Dr. Yang's practice vaccinates 250 patients a week. Dr. Yang looks the patient up in the Online Registry, reports the shots given that day, and reports any historical shots not already in the CIR. If he can't find a patient, Dr. Yang reports the shots using paper forms.

Dr. Yang's practice has been reporting online since 2003. They appreciate the exciting features which make working with the CIR more than just another reporting requirement. For example, when a parent or guardian comes in looking for an immunization record for school, day care, or camp admission, the staff can quickly print out the record.

According to Dr. Yang, "As a general concept, the registry is a great idea! We have patients that come from other providers and are able to get the information right away."

The CIR staff thanks Dr. Yang and his staff for their work and commends them for their dedication to providing quality patient care.

Ordering VFC Vaccine

The CIR now generates monthly reports for public and private heathcare providers on the administration of Vaccines For Children (VFC) doses.

These reports are used to account for the provider's use of VFC vaccine. The report includes a comparison of immunizations reported to the CIR and the quantity of vaccines ordered. By reporting the immunizations you administer to the CIR, you will ensure that an adequate supply of VFC vaccine will continue to be shipped to your office.

Free Training at Your Office

To learn how to access patient records and report immunizations via personal computer and the Internet, call us at 212-676-2323.

Heads Up!

Varicella vaccine will be required for all sixth graders for the coming school year.

All children born between 1994 and 1997 who are entering or enrolled in sixth grade must be vaccinated against chickenpox if they have not had a documented case of chickenpox or have not already had the varicella vaccine.

Numbers to know:

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

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.