



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH

**\*PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF \***

August 15, 2008

Dear Colleague:

With the 2008-2009 school year quickly approaching, the Bureau of Immunization is providing this review of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommended adolescent schedule and the New York State 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade immunization requirement for Tdap. The vaccines recommended for routine administration at 11-12 years of age are:

- Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis): required for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade entrance, at age 11 or older
- MCV4 (quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine)
- HPV (human papillomavirus vaccine) a 3-dose series, for females only

The 11–12 year primary care visit, usually performed prior to 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry, may be the last routine visit to the medical home for many adolescents, and perhaps the last opportunity for them to receive not only the required vaccines, but also any other indicated vaccines, including those not previously administered (catch-up). We recommend that providers identify all children due for their 11–12 year visit, review their immunization records, and notify families to schedule an appointment. Accessing the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) will identify which vaccines are due, and allow historical or missing data to be reported. Your role in the success of this immunization initiative is crucial. It has been shown that of all influences on parental acceptance of immunizations, provider recommendation is the most important.

Last year, although providers offered Tdap at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade visit, there was confusion about the recommendations, resulting in several errors in administration and documentation, and unnecessary school exclusions. In addition, it is important to note that last year, provision of MCV4 and HPV (females) vaccines lagged far behind Tdap. Approximately 70% of adolescents who received a Tdap, did not receive the recommended MCV4 or HPV vaccine (for females), representing a significant missed opportunity to vaccinate.

Additional information is available at the following links:

- Back to School: School-Based services and Admission Requirements: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi27-7.pdf>
- ACIP Adolescent Immunization Schedule: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/>
- Information addressing frequently encountered problems and questions concerning Tdap: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/imm-alert-20080311.pdf>

All doses of any vaccine administered to children <19 years of age in NYC must be reported to the CIR at [www.nyc.gov/health/cir](http://www.nyc.gov/health/cir) (212-676-2323) The Vaccines for Children Program can be contacted at 212-447-8175. For professional or technical questions, please call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, M.D., M.Sc.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization