

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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Welcome!

Thanks for subscribing to Vax Facts, the North Carolina Immunization Branch's e-newsletter. We hope this will help us stay connected to immunization providers across North Carolina. Feel free to share this document with whomever you choose and encourage your colleagues to subscribe. Sign up instructions are at the end of this e-newsletter.

What's Going On In the Immunization Branch?

Flu Season is Here! It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate!

The stress of the holiday season is behind us; however the one season that we don't look forward to is flu season. In North Carolina, flu season typically peaks in February and March, so if your patients have not received their flu vaccine, now is the time! The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over six months of age.

Free Immunization Resources for Clinicians!

Did you know that the Immunization Branch's website has free resources that you may view, print and order for your office? Click [here](#) to view what's available and [here](#) to view or print the order form.

Annual Childcare Immunization Reports Are Due on Jan. 13, 2012

Attention Providers: Over the last few months, local health departments should have been receiving childcare immunization reports from the child care facilities in your county. North Carolina law requires that all licensed child care facilities submit an annual immunization report. As a reminder, be sure to give parents a copy of their child's vaccine record to provide to the child care facility. Click [here](#) to view and print the report, as well as to see our new Captivate module, which provides detailed instructions on completing the report.

North Carolina Receives a "B" for Immunization Rates

The North Carolina Child Health Report Card has been released by Action for Children North Carolina and the NC Institute of Medicine. In 2010, 81.6 percent of children ages 19 to 35 months and 97 percent of school-entry children were appropriately vaccinated. To view the full report card click [here](#).

Online NCIR Classes

Join us for free online NCIR training sessions on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. with a repeat session at 1 p.m. There is no need to pre-register. Simply log on to the NCIR and look under the Announcements section for a link to join the sessions. You'll also need to dial in via telephone to hear the presentation, just remember to mute your phone! Each session is approximately 30 minutes.

Upcoming online training sessions:

Date	Time	Title	Additional Information
Jan. 11, 2012	9 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Clinical Issues & the NCIR	Learn how to use the NCIR as a clinical tool. The vaccines recommended section and how to use the vaccine usage report will be covered during this session.

Are You In Compliance?

Availability of Adult Vaccine Changes

NCIP providers may no longer use the following NCIP vaccines for patients 19 and older who meet NCIP coverage criteria:

- Menactra® (MCV4)
- Decavac® (Td)
- Adacel® (Tdap)

Alternative products that may be used for patients 19 and older are:

- Menveo® (MCV4)
- MassBiologics® (Td)
- Boostrix® (Tdap)

Updated [coverage criteria](#) reflecting this change can be found on the Immunization Branch's website.

Clinician's Corner

New ACIP Recommendation for Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among Children Aged 9 through 23 Months at Increased Risk for Invasive Meningococcal Disease

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recently recommended that children aged 9 through 23 months with certain risk factors receive a two-dose series of MenACWY-D (MC4 Menactra), three months apart. These risk factors include:

- Children who have persistent complement component deficiencies.
- Children who are traveling or residents of countries where meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic.
- Children who are in a defined risk group during a community or institutional meningococcal outbreak.

A two-dose primary series is required for any child with the above risk factors whose first dose was received before the age of two. If the second dose was not received on schedule (three months after first dose), it should be administered as soon as possible. The minimum interval between doses is eight weeks.

Children who receive the two-dose series age 9 through 23 months and are at prolonged, increased risk should receive a booster three years after completing the primary series. After this booster, those still at risk should receive a booster dose every five years.

News You Can Use

Current Flu Status in North Carolina: The State Laboratory of Public Health confirmed North Carolina's first case of influenza this season in mid-November. It was identified as Influenza B type.

Expansion of Flu Coverage Vaccine: Influenza vaccine provided through the NCIP may now be administered to anyone over six months of age, regardless of insurance status. Review this [memo](#) for complete details.

2012 Vaccination Immunization Schedules: Recommended Vaccination Immunization Schedules will be updated later this month. Please check the Immunization Branch website for updates.

Childhood Immunization Champion Award: Do you know an individual who makes a significant contribution towards improving public health through their work in childhood immunization? Nominate them for the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award. New this year, one CDC Immunization Champion from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia will be honored. Click [here](#) for more information.

Kudos

As part of our federal program requirements, **Immunization Branch's Field Services Unit** concluded 2011 by exceeding the 50 percent requirement by completing 640 VFC site visits.

Subscribe to Vax Facts

Please follow the instructions below to add yourself to our contact list.

Step One: Send an email to this address: ncip.newsletter-subscribe@lists.ncmail.net. There's no need to include any special instructions in the subject line or in the body of the email message you send.

Step Two: Respond to the system-generated confirmation email. Read this email carefully and follow the included instructions to complete the sign-up process. Please note, you must respond to this system-generated confirmation email within three days. The easiest way to complete the sign-up process is by simply replying to the confirmation email.

Step Three: Look for a system-generated welcome message. Once you receive this message, you will be signed up to receive Vax Facts.

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