

2015 Childhood Immunization Champion Award

Nominations due February 13

MDCH is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award.

The CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. Each year, there is one CDC Immunization Champion from each of the 50 U.S. states, 8 U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia that can be honored with this award.

The 2015 awardees will be announced during National Infant Immunization Week (April 18- 25).

This award is intended to recognize individuals who are working at the local level. It honors those who are doing an exemplary job or going above and beyond to promote childhood immunizations in their communities.

Nominated individuals can include coalition members, parents, health care professionals (e.g., physicians, nurses, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, etc.), and other immunization leaders. The nomination packet along with other information is posted on the [CDC Childhood Immunization Champion website](#).

State and federal government employees paid by state or federal immunization funding, individuals who have been affiliated with and/or employed by pharmaceutical companies, and those who have already received the award are not eligible for the 2015 award.

Please complete the nomination packet, and submit to the MDCH Immunization Program, Attention: Stephanie Sanchez, **no later than February 13, 2015**.

Award recipients from past years are posted at this web link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/champions/profiles-2014.html>

Michigan Confirms First Measles Case of 2015

Michigan's first measles case of 2015 was confirmed in late January. From January 1 to January 30, 102 people from 14 states, including Michigan, were reported to have measles. Most of these cases, including Michigan's, are part of a large, ongoing outbreak linked to Disneyland in California. CDC urges health care professionals to consider measles when evaluating patients with febrile rash and to ask about a patient's recent international travel history and travel to domestic venues frequented by international travelers. Information on measles, including guidelines for patient evaluation, diagnosis, and management is posted on the [CDC website](#).

Measles is a vaccine-preventable respiratory infection that can result in hospitalization, pneumonia, encephalitis, and death. The illness initially presents with a high fever, red eyes, cough, runny nose, photophobia, and is followed by a red, raised body rash starting on the head and face that then progresses to the rest of the body. Because measles is highly communicable, vaccination is the best line of defense, and successful prevention and control requires high levels of immunity in all communities.

Last year, there were a total of five measles cases in Michigan. From 2001 – 2012, the average number of measles cases reported nationally per year was about 60. In 2014, there were 644 cases in the U.S., and the vast majority of cases were among persons who had no history of vaccination against measles.

The measles vaccine is highly effective and safe. Adults who do not have evidence of immunity against measles should get at least one dose of the vaccine. The first of two routine childhood measles vaccine doses is given at 12 months of age. For international travel, infants as young as 6 months should be vaccinated against measles. The vaccination, or documentation of immunity to measles, is recommended for all persons travelling internationally.

2015 Immunization Schedules Released

Every year, recommendations for routine use of vaccines in children, adolescents, and adults are developed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and, when adopted by CDC, become official policy. The 2015 [child and adolescent schedule](#) was released on January 30 and the [adult schedule](#) was released on February 3. The parent-friendly schedules were also updated to reflect the new 2015 recommended immunization schedule for children from [birth through age 6](#) and for pre-teens and teens from [7 through 18 years old](#).

The *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* published summaries of the schedule changes on February 5, 2015:

- [Summary of changes to the childhood immunization schedule](#)
- [Summary of changes to the adult immunization schedule](#)

Be sure to review the footnotes to the schedules as they contain a wealth of information.



2014-15 Influenza Season Update

On January 15, 2015, CDC published [early estimates of seasonal flu vaccine effectiveness](#) for the 2014-15 season. The overall vaccine effectiveness (VE) for this year's flu vaccine is 23%, which means that a vaccinated individual's likelihood of having to go to the doctor for flu illness was reduced by 23% across all ages. As is stated in the *MMWR*, "this interim VE estimate is relatively low compared with previous seasons when circulating viruses and vaccine viruses were well-matched and likely reflects the fact that more than two-thirds of circulating A (H3N2) viruses are antigenically and genetically different (drifted) from the A (H3N2) vaccine component of the 2014-15 Northern Hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccines."

CDC issued a [press release regarding the effectiveness estimates](#). CDC has also updated their seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness website which has [VE estimates for the past decade](#). Because of small sample sizes by age group, we are limited in our ability to make inferences based on these data.

Michigan and much of the country remains at widespread flu activity levels. H3N2 continues to be the predominant circulating virus, and seasons where H3N2 predominates are typically associated with higher hospitalization rates and deaths. Nationally, 45 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have already been reported through January 10, and Michigan's first pediatric flu death was included in [CDC's FluView](#) report for the week ending January 17.

It is important to keep in mind that while our 2014-15 flu vaccine may not protect well against H3N2 (specifically the drifted virus), a different flu virus that is in the vaccine may circulate later this season, such as H1N1 or influenza B. Please keep vaccinating everyone 6 months and older against flu if they have not already been vaccinated. Even flu vaccine that offers partial protection can still protect against flu complications, hospitalization, and death.

2014-2015 College and University Flu Challenge Update

During National Influenza Vaccination Week (December 7-13, 2014) MDCH [announced the winners](#) of the first annual [College and University Flu Vaccination Challenge](#). Fourteen colleges and universities stepped up to the Challenge, to see which school could get the highest flu vaccination rate on their campus.

We are excited to announce this year's Challenge winners.

2014-15 Flu Challenge Winners:

- *Hope College* won in the Small Schools category (less than 10,000 undergrad students)
- *Wayne State University* won in the Medium Schools category (10,000-25,000 undergrad students)
- *Michigan State University* won in the Large Schools category (more than 25,000 undergrad students)



Congratulations to the winners!

We also applaud all of the colleges and universities that partnered with us to raise awareness and vaccination rates on their campuses.

[Posted online 2/6/15](#)

Michigan's Vaccination Waiver Rules are Strengthened

Michigan has one of the highest waiver rates in the U.S. Some counties have waiver rates as high as 20.7% and some school buildings have even higher rates. This leaves communities vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, chickenpox and pertussis. As a result, in 2014 Michigan modified the administrative rules to change how nonmedical (philosophical or religious) waivers for immunizations will be processed for school and childcare programs.

Under the old rule, a parent could fill out a nonmedical waiver at their child's daycare or school. Now, a parent who requests a nonmedical waiver must meet with a county health department educator who will discuss their concerns and offer information on risk of disease and benefit of vaccination.

The new rule is not intended to diminish the role of the private healthcare provider in educating parents and families on the importance of immunization. A strong provider recommendation is recognized as a powerful motivator for parents to comply with immunization recommendations.

Instead, the intent is to form a partnership between public health and private providers in a joint effort to decrease the number of school and childcare waivers in Michigan. Through this approach, providers will continue to educate their patients and parents on the true medical contraindications and precautions to vaccination, while the health department staff focuses on the educational process for nonmedical waivers. The hope is that through these efforts, the State of Michigan will begin to see an increase in immunization rates.

Issuance of a medical waiver based on a true contraindication or precaution to vaccination remains the role of the provider. The State of Michigan Medical Waiver form and a link to the "Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines" and "Refusal to Vaccinate" (for parents refusing vaccines for nonmedical reasons) handouts are posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize > click on *Local Health Department* > click on *Immunization Waiver Information*.

CDC's Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Course Coming to Michigan June 16-17

Each year, immunization educators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer a two-day live course in two or three states. The Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Course, also known as the Pink Book Course, provides a comprehensive review of vaccine-preventable diseases and the recommended vaccines to prevent them.



This year, the class will be offered in Lansing, Michigan, June 16-17. Participants will have many opportunities to ask questions, and a variety of health care professionals may be eligible to earn continuing education for attending. A state immunization update, given by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Immunization, will also be included. Registration for the class will begin April 6, so mark your calendar. More information is included on the [Save the Date flyer](#).

HPV Communication Campaign Update

Through CDC grant funds, MDCH is engaging in a statewide HPV awareness campaign targeting women 35-54 years of age with children between the ages of 11 and 18 years. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage parents, specifically mothers, to get their children the HPV vaccine and educate on how the vaccine can reduce the risk of many types of cancer. The campaign began in November 2014 and will run through July 2015 with a variety of media including ads on the radio, Pandora, print, and social media. The radio ads were aired in November in the following markets: Battle Creek, Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Traverse City, and Marquette. To listen to the ads, visit www.michigan.gov/hpv.

Full-page HPV ads were featured in the Michigan High School Football State Championship program and additional ads are scheduled to be placed in the programs for the Girls and Boys Basketball State Semifinals and Championship games in March. Social media will be utilized to promote vaccination during the summer months through Facebook and Twitter, targeting mothers of adolescents. It is our hope that this communication campaign increases awareness about the importance of HPV vaccine for adolescent boys and girls.

HPV Recall Project Update

The HPV Recall project is in full swing. This CDC funded project has a focused goal of increasing adolescent HPV vaccinations through 1) centralized reminder/recall, 2) AFIX visits with physician office, and 3) a media and education campaign. The project, which began in 2013, will continue until October 2015. The MDCH Division of Immunization generates and mails letters from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) for adolescents that have started, but not yet completed, the 3-dose HPV vaccine series. The letters provide information on all recommended ACIP vaccines, including seasonal influenza, Tdap, and MCV.

During December 2014, there were a total of 8,297 reminder/recall letters sent to the parents/guardians of 11-18 year-old children. These letters were sent to individuals who had received the second dose of HPV vaccine and were overdue for the 3rd dose. Among those letters, there were 662 returned letters (undeliverable, forwarding address expired, no such address, etc.). There were 15 letters that had forwarding addresses available, which allowed for MCIR to be updated and the letters to be sent to the new address. For those letters without forwarding addresses, the provider/patient status in MCIR was changed from "active" to "inactive- moved or gone elsewhere" (MOGE).

MDCH will continue to generate and mail letters to parents or guardians of adolescents (11-18 year-olds) that have not completed the HPV vaccine series. Some providers will be receiving invitations for an AFIX visit, which will be a 1-hour presentation that can be conducted in person at the physician's office or via a web conference. For more information about this project please call either Courtney Londo at (517) 335-9948 or Stephanie Sanchez at (517) 335-9011.

Printed Adolescent Immunization Resources Available Free of Charge in Multiple Languages

In November 2014, MDCH distributed a packet of information to all health care providers serving adolescents in Michigan (and registered in MCIR). The packets included information on free print resources available for order through the Health Promotions Clearinghouse at www.healthymichigan.com.

The following printed materials are available for order, free-of-charge, in multiple languages:

- [Tips for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine](#)
- [HPV Fact Sheet with Personal Story](#)
- [HPV Vaccine Against Cancer Poster](#) (11" x 17")
- [Close the Door to Cancer Poster](#) (11" x 17")
- [HPV Cancer Prevention Poster](#) (11" x 17")
- [A Parent's Guide to Preteen and Teen HPV Vaccination](#) (printed copies available in English, Arabic, and Spanish)*
- [HPV Vaccine: A Little Pain Is Worth The Gain](#)*
- [Teen Vaccines: Info for Parents](#)* (printed copies available in English, Arabic, and Spanish)
- [Vaccinate Before You Graduate](#)*
- [HPV Brochure](#)
- [Protect Preteens and Teens from Serious Diseases Brochure](#)

*Indicates materials are [available for download](#) in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

To order these materials for use in your practice, visit www.healthymichigan.com > click on *enter site* > then click on *immunizations*.

Simply enter the number of materials you would like to order under each poster in the *Add* box and click on *Check Out*. Materials will be shipped to you free-of-charge at the address you indicate.

Additional materials are available for [download on the AIM Kit website](#). Any of these materials can be printed and used in your office.

Dates Announced for Michigan's 2015 Fall Immunization Conferences

Michigan's Annual Immunization Conferences offer an excellent opportunity for health care professionals to get updated on immunization. These conferences have been offered annually for 20 years, and consistently receive high ratings from attendees. Their primary goal is to update providers on immunization issues that affect people of all ages. They are intended for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, medical assistants, public health staff, physician assistants, medical and nursing students, and anyone interested in learning more about current immunization practice in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is pleased to announce the 2015 Fall Schedule for these conferences: Oct. 13 (Marquette), Oct. 15 (Gaylord), Nov. 3 (Lansing), Nov. 5 (Grand Rapids), Nov. 6 (Flint), Nov. 17 (Kalamazoo), Nov. 19 (Dearborn), and Nov. 20 (Troy).

We are still in the early planning stages for these conferences. As more details become available, they will be posted on our [conference website](#). Registration will begin September 4.

[A Save-the-Date flyer](#) is posted on the conference website.

MDCH Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) Update

The 2015 Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination Program for Newborns enrollment form is no longer posted as a stand-alone document. Instead, it is now part of the updated *Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Provider Agreement* form. This document is posted on the [MDCH VFC Program website](#).

This form can also be found at: www.michigan.gov/hepatitisB under the LHD Vaccine/HBIG Resources section (when enrolling birthing facilities, page 6 does not have to be completed). If you need additional guidance, please contact the VFC program at 517-335-9646 or at dingersonl@michigan.gov or the PHBPP at 517-335-9443 or at fineisp@michigan.gov.

FDA Approves Second Group B Meningococcal Vaccine

In January, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Bexsero, a Novartis vaccine to prevent meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B in people 10 through 25 years. This is the second group B vaccine to be approved by the FDA.

In October, the agency approved Wyeth's Trumenba, also for people 10 to 25 years old. Both group B vaccines were fast-tracked after several serogroup B outbreaks of meningitis on college campuses. Two other vaccines previously approved for U.S. use cover the A, C, Y, and W-135 serogroups.

Three studies evaluating Bexsero's effectiveness were conducted in Canada, Australia, Chile, and the United Kingdom in about 2,600 adolescents and young adults. Two doses of Bexsero produced antibodies to three different strains of serogroup B *N meningitidis* in 62% to 88% of study participants, the FDA said in a press release.

Safety trials involved about 5,000 US and international volunteers, with the most common side effects being pain and swelling at the injection site, headache, diarrhea, muscle pain, joint pain, fatigue, and chills. In addition, safety was monitored in more than 15,000 people who received Bexsero in response to two university outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease in the United States, the FDA said.

Jan 23 FDA [news release](#)

Protecting our Tomorrows

In January we saw the debut of the *Protecting Our Tomorrows* project by Anne Geddes, in which she highlights survivors of meningitis. There is a video, article, and a slide show of 17 pictures. I encourage you to take it all in.

There's a link to the free book at the end of the article. These images are stunning:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/anne-geddes-photographs-child-survivors-meningococcal-disease/>

Medicare Coverage now Includes Both Pneumococcal Vaccines

In 2014, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that people age 65 and up get both PPSV23 and PCV13. Previously, Medicare Part B covered only one dose of pneumococcal vaccine. Medicare announced that it will now cover two doses **provided that they are given at least 12 months apart**. The change was effective Feb. 2, 2015, but is retroactive to Sept. 19, 2014. People who paid out of pocket for second doses of pneumococcal vaccine between those dates can request reimbursement from their Part B plans.

On a related note, Medicare Part B has an excellent [Immunization Billing handout posted on their website](#). It is a CMS piece that has been updated for Pneumococcal Vaccines and provides a lot of information that can answer many billing questions. There is a nice FAQ on pages 5-6.

Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

To subscribe to the [Michigan Immunization Timely Tips](#) newsletter, send an email to cmarkzon@msms.org and enter the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Subscribers will receive the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) newsletter, as well as additional immunization-related updates on a periodic basis. MITT is posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize under the Health Care Professionals/Providers section. For more information, contact Rosemary Franklin at franklin@michigan.gov.

The Holidays May Be Over
But Flu Season Is Not.



Don't Spread the Flu to Your Loved Ones.

It's Not Too Late To Get
Vaccinated Today.



This poster and others are posted at:
<http://www.michigan.gov/flu> Click on "Flu Gallery"