

Children need 2009 H1N1 vaccine

Children 6 months through 9 years of age need two doses of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine to be fully protected. Persons aged 10 years and older need only 1 dose. Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) data show many of Michigan's children are not protected and still need 1 or 2 doses of H1N1 vaccine. Ensure that children in your practice have received the recommended doses of 2009 H1N1.

Parents should be informed that it's not too late for their children to be vaccinated. CDC encourages people of all ages to get vaccinated throughout the flu season, which can last as late as May. Flu seasons are unpredictable. Though flu activity has declined since late October, there are still uncertainties surrounding the rest of this flu season. In past pandemics, flu activity has occurred in waves and it's possible that the United States could experience another wave of flu activity in late winter or spring of 2010. In addition, sporadic cases of influenza may be detected in the summer.

Extensive testing and monitoring have shown that the [2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is safe](#). It is also an excellent match for the H1N1 flu virus. Continue to check the following web sites for up-to-date information: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu, www.michigan.gov/flu and www.cdc.gov/flu.

Parents still worry about vaccine safety

Parental concern about pandemic vaccine safety, despite the vaccine's good record, is still an obstacle to immunization, according to a [survey released in early February by the University of Michigan](#). While about half (55%) of parents worried about their children getting the flu, more (65%) worried about vaccine safety. Pandemic H1N1 has been more deadly for children than seasonal flu, but pollsters said parents may not fully grasp potential illness severity. The January poll included 1,612 parents.

Non-safety related voluntary recall

As part of its quality assurance program, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., performs routine, ongoing testing of influenza vaccines after the vaccine has been distributed to health care providers to ensure that the vaccine continues to meet required specifications. In January, during testing of its influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine, Sanofi Pasteur found five distributed lots of single-dose, pre-filled syringe pediatric (0.25 mL) vaccine and one distributed lot of single-dose pre-filled syringe for older children and adults (0.5 mL) vaccine had potency below pre-specified limits. The manufacturer is conducting a non-safety related voluntary recall of any unused doses of these affected lots of vaccine. CDC has posted the following materials on the [Non-Safety-Related Voluntary Recall of Unused Doses from Certain Lots of Sanofi Pasteur H1N1 Vaccine in Pre-Filled Syringes](#); in addition, see: [Questions & Answers](#).

Lancet retracts study linking autism to MMR vaccine

On February 2, The Lancet journal retracted a published study linking the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to autism and bowel disease. The paper by Andrew Wakefield and colleagues was published in 1998. MMR vaccination rates have dropped, especially in the U.K., as a result of this flawed study. Vaccination rates in Britain have never recovered, which has led to measles outbreaks. The U.S. has had outbreaks of measles in the last few years also.

Many subsequent studies have found no evidence to link the MMR vaccine to autism, but some parents remain unconvinced. Dr. Paul Offit, chief of the infectious-diseases division at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, has been a vocal advocate for vaccines. Dr. Offit is the author of *Autism's False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure*. "It's easy to scare people," says Offit. "But it's extremely hard to unscare them."

The retraction followed the ruling of the U.K.'s General Medical Council that stated Dr. Wakefield's conduct regarding his research was "dishonest" and "irresponsible" and that he had shown a "callous disregard" for the suffering of children involved in his studies.

In March 2004, ten of the study's 13 authors renounced the study's conclusions, and The Lancet has previously said it should never have published the research. "We fully retract this paper from the published record," its editors said in a statement.

Wakefield and two colleagues are currently under investigation and face being stripped of their right to practice medicine in Britain.

Many children require Hib booster dose

In September 2009, ACIP and CDC recommended reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine for all children aged 12-15 months who have completed the primary series. Because of the recent shortage of Hib vaccines, many children did not receive their booster dose of Hib vaccine. The Michigan Department of Community Health is now urging physicians to recall children in need of their booster dose. The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) can help you identify children in your practice needing this dose of Hib vaccine. MCIR can create a recall letter to send to parents reminding them that vaccines are due. Additional information on MCIR recall letters can be found at www.mcir.org or by contacting your MCIR regional staff.

Hib vaccine products available include: ActHIB® (sanofi Pasteur), PedvaxHIB® (Merck), Pentacel® (DTaP/IPV/Hib) and Hiberix® (GSK). Hiberix is licensed for use as the booster dose only.

MDCH launches [teen immunization website](#)

MDCH has created a new website devoted to the immunization information needs of pre-teens and teens. Separate web pages are designed for pre-teens, teens and their parents, as well as health care personnel, schools and vaccine safety. Be sure to check out the [Adolescent Immunization Poster Gallery](#), which includes posters targeted to pre-teens, teens and their parents. MDCH is urging local health departments and other organizations to add a link from their websites to this new website. Visit the new website today at www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines.

Spotlight on the Quick Look handouts

It's a challenge for clinical staff to stay updated on new immunization recommendations. For that reason, Immunization Nurse Educators at the MDCH Division of Immunization have created a series of Quick Look handouts. Each of these handouts provides a one-page summary of the recommendations for use of a particular type of vaccine. They are intended for use by health care providers. The Quick Look handouts are posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize under the *Provider Information* section.

Report Published on Adult Immunization

A February 2010 report, [Adult Immunization: Shots to Save Lives](#), released by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH), gives state-specific rates of vaccine coverage for influenza from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFS). In Michigan, the following influenza vaccination coverage was reported as of 2008:

- 18-49 year olds: 23% (National total: 24%)
- 50-64 year olds: 42% (National total: 42%)
- 65 years and older: 70% (National total: 70%)

In addition, the report found that 34.2% of adults ages 65 and older had not been immunized against pneumonia in Michigan. When ranked, this percentage places Michigan 18th from the bottom. (The [2008 Michigan BRFS report](#) is available online.)

CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine launches new websites

- Immigrant and Refugee Health: www.cdc.gov/ImmigrantRefugeeHealth
- Quarantine: www.cdc.gov/quarantine
- Animal Importation: www.cdc.gov/AnimalImportation
- Division of Global Migration and Quarantine: www.cdc.gov/ncpcid/dgmgq

Nominate someone for the Hometown Health Hero Award

The Michigan Public Health Week Partnership is seeking nominations for Michigan Hometown Health Heroes. Do you know an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond their job responsibilities to create positive, healthy change in their community? If you know a person or group that deserves recognition as a Hometown Health Hero for efforts to protect their communities from vaccine-preventable diseases, improve the environment, promote healthy behaviors, increase access to health or preventive services, or develop a new best practice or model program, let us know! If your nominee does this activity as part of his/her job, you need to tell us how the person has gone above and beyond normal job duties to address core public health principles.

The nomination form is posted on the [Michigan Public Health Week web page](#). The deadline is March 5.

Shot of Prevention blog offers immunization advocates a virtual place to meet

Reprinted from the IAC Express, 1/19/10 –

Shot of Prevention is a community blog where individuals, parents, medical professionals, and others can gather to discuss questions and current events regarding immunizations. The blog is edited by Amy Pisani, executive director of Every Child by Two (ECBT), and Danielle Romaguera, a mother of three who lost a child to pertussis. Individuals with questions about vaccines may find this new blog a helpful resource. Clinicians should feel free to refer vaccine-hesitant parents and patients to Shot of Prevention at <http://www.shotofprevention.com>

Be sure to visit the other ECBT websites at www.ecbt.org and www.vaccinateyourbaby.org.

New for parents: ECBT's video clip collection

Every Child by Two (ECBT) recently launched a new web page titled [Video FAQs](#) on its [Vaccinate Your Baby](#) website. The new web page features video clips of experts on immunization and autism briefly answering parents' most frequently asked questions about vaccination. The video clips vary from 30 seconds to 2 minutes in length and are a valuable resource for health care professionals and the general public.

Vaccine Education Center videos now available on YouTube

The Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) has posted many vaccine-related videos on YouTube. The [CHOP channel](#) has a 14-video playlist titled [Vaccines and Your Baby](#), which covers disease-specific vaccination topics and other vaccine-related topics, such as immunity, viruses, and vaccine safety. Other video titles include [New Vaccines, Should You Wait?](#) and [Vaccines: Good Information vs. Bad Information](#).

MDCH offers shortcut website addresses

Use these shortcut addresses to link to the following:

- www.michigan.gov/hepatitisB - hepatitis B
- www.michigan.gov/hivstd - HIV/STD/hepatitis
- www.michigan.gov/yellowfever - yellow fever & travel vaccines
- www.michigan.gov/flu - influenza
- www.michigan.gov/vfc - Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
- www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines - pre-teen & teens

Are your coworkers receiving this newsletter?

If you have a colleague who would like to receive this newsletter, it's easy to subscribe. The person wishing to be added to this listserv needs to send an email to MBenhamza@msms.org with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line (please note: that is the only thing that should be typed in the email).

The best part is, in addition to this listserv, subscribers will be kept updated on late-breaking immunization news in-between the monthly issues.

Michigan's Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

MITT is posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize, under the Provider Information section.