

Cheryl A. Szof is Michigan's 2016 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is proud to announce that Cheryl A Szof, BS, RPh, pharmacist at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, has been selected as the 2016 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Childhood Immunization Champion* for Michigan. CDC and the CDC Foundation hold this annual awards program to honor immunization champions across the 50 U.S. states, 8 U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia during [National Infant Immunization Week](#) (April 16-23, 2016). Szof was nominated and selected from several health care professionals, community advocates, and other immunization leaders in Michigan for making a significant contribution to public health through her work in children's immunization.

Szof is recognized for her 30+ years of immunization education in Detroit and surrounding areas of southeast Michigan. She is the immunization resource person for the Detroit Medical Center pharmacies and also for nursing students at Wayne State University. Since 1993, she has been an integral member of the Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM) coalition, serving on many education sub-committees.



Congratulations to Cheryl Szof

"With pharmacists now becoming so involved in providing immunizations, I am especially honored as a pharmacist to have been chosen for this award. I have truly enjoyed being an immunization educator, and hope that through my enthusiasm for promoting and teaching about immunizations I've made an impact on the pharmacists and nurses that I've had the opportunity to teach", said Szof.

Young children rely on the champions in their lives to keep them safe and healthy. Champions may be doctors and nurses who share scientifically accurate, up-to-date information about vaccines with parents.

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HPV Updates: Provider Letter & Announcements

In early March, an [HPV Provider Recommendation Joint Letter](#) was distributed to health care providers throughout the state. This letter is supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and leading health professional organizations in Michigan. The letter urges health care providers to make a strong recommendation for patients to receive HPV vaccine.

Please help us to further distribute this letter by taking the following actions:

- Distribute the letter to your organization and immunization partners via e-mail announcement, blast fax, newsletters, and publications
- Provide a [link to the letter](#) on your website
- Share copies of the letter at upcoming conferences and meetings

Additional Michigan updates:

- MDHHS has developed an [HPV Pharmacy Snapshot](#) highlighting the uptake of HPV vaccine in pharmacy settings.
- MDHHS has mailed 496,000 letters to the parents of adolescents 11-18 years of age who are overdue for any dose of HPV vaccine. Beginning in April, additional letters will be sent to the parents of adolescents 11-18 years of age who are overdue for the 2nd and 3rd doses of HPV vaccine (approximately 165,000 adolescents).
- Michigan AFIX reports will soon be available, in MCIR, at the provider user level. The AFIX reports not only provide coverage levels for your patients, but also identify patients that had missed opportunities or are coming due or are overdue for ACIP-recommended vaccines. AFIX reports are an effective tool to assist provider offices with strategies to increase vaccinations. Stay tuned for more information on this functionality as well as information on [Classic AFIX visits](#).

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They may be advocates who go the extra mile to ensure that all children in their communities have access to vaccines. They may be public health professionals who work behind the scenes tracking immunization data, coordinating vaccine logistics, or developing public awareness campaigns. They may be parents who share their personal stories about vaccination with their communities.

When families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials work together, all children can be protected from serious and deadly vaccine-preventable diseases. Cheryl Szof is an inspiration to all of us who care about children's health in Michigan. We are pleased and honored to congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

To read Cheryl Szof's profile on the CDC website, and to learn more about CDC's *Childhood Immunization Champion Award* program, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1NzJYU2>

Please join us in congratulating Cheryl Szof!

Two-Dose Chickenpox Shot Gets the Job Done

A recent study examined overall and incremental effectiveness of 2-dose varicella vaccination in preventing community transmission of varicella among children aged 4 to 18 years in 2 active surveillance sites. The study concluded that two-dose varicella vaccination offered better protection against varicella from community transmission among school-aged children compared with 1-dose vaccination.

"Varicella Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing Community Transmission in the 2-Dose Era" was published online March 14 and will appear in the April print issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

For more: <http://1.usa.gov/1S0X7HO>

Michigan's Annual
Immunization Conferences Set for
October and November

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HPV Provider Letter & HPV Announcements

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Below are two national HPV announcements that you may also find of interest:

- In the [March 2016 issue of Pediatrics](#), researchers found that within 6 years of HPV vaccine introduction, there was a 64 percent decrease in 4vHPV type prevalence among females aged 14 to 19 years and a 34 percent decrease among those aged 20 to 24 years. This finding supports previous observations of population impact in the U.S. and demonstrates the first national evidence of impact among females in their 20s.
- A joint statement has been issued by [National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers](#), urging HPV vaccination for the prevention of cancer.

Thank you for all that you are doing to promote HPV vaccination in Michigan.

Flu Shot during Pregnancy May Cut Stillbirth Risk by Half

A recent study found that mothers who received trivalent flu vaccination during pregnancy were significantly less likely to experience stillbirth compared with unvaccinated mothers.

To read more: <http://bit.ly/1RM2dtx>

NCICP Conference May 25-27 in Indiana

The National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships (NCICP) will be held in Indianapolis May 25-27. The purpose of this conference is to discuss issues currently facing immunization-focused organizations and to consider solutions to these issues. After the conference, attendees will be able to speak more fluently on immunization topics and will leave the conference with practical projects that can be implemented on any budget to increase immunization rates and awareness. To register for this conference or for more information:

www.immunizationcoalitionconference.org

It's National Infant Immunization Week!

Help your patients catch up on
missed vaccinations! #NIIW

<http://go.usa.gov/4EKj>

Mom Regrets Skipping Tdap Vaccine during Pregnancy

She Knows, 4/6/16

Cormit Avital's attitude toward getting vaccinated for pertussis while she was pregnant reflects a sentiment we're hearing more and more lately. As a healthy, active woman who ate organic foods and practiced whole wellness, why would she bother? She couldn't imagine she would need to be protected from whooping cough, so when her doctors recommended a standard vaccine against it in her third trimester, she turned them down. Now she says she wishes she had done things very differently

To reduce the chance of infection, doctors recommend that everyone around the baby get vaccinated, which includes pregnant women, who can safely receive Tdap, preferably during the third trimester. This is the shot Avital refused and wishes she hadn't. Fortunately her infant, Eva, is expected to recover, but it's a process that will take weeks before she's finally allowed to go home. It takes no small amount of bravery to say, 'I thought I knew better, but I was wrong,' and it's clear that it took a lot of courage for Avital to stand up and do exactly that. Sometimes believing does require seeing.

For more information and a video of Cormit telling her story, go to: <http://bit.ly/22ppFiZ>

Become a Sentinel Provider

As part of pandemic influenza surveillance, CDC and MDHHS highly encourage year-round participation from all sentinel providers. New practices are encouraged to join the sentinel surveillance program today. Contact Stefanie Cole (ColeS4@michigan.gov) for more information.

CDC Updates

- [MMWR Weekly](#) (CDC)
- [Immunization Works](#) newsletter

IAC Updates

- [Needle Tips](#)
- [Vaccinate Adults](#)
- Subscribe to IAC periodicals:
<http://www.immunize.org/subscribe/>

Study Links Recent Outbreaks to Skipped Vaccinations

Vaccine Top 5: March 2016 Media Coverage, ECBT

Children who miss or delay childhood vaccinations without medical reason are contributing to outbreaks of measles and pertussis, according to an analysis published in the March issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). The analysis reviewed 18 separate measles studies which detailed the 1,416 measles cases that have been recorded in the U.S. since 2000 - the year the disease was declared eliminated in the United States.

Of the 970 cases in patients with detailed vaccine histories, researchers found nearly 60 percent (574 patients) were unvaccinated despite being eligible; and 405 of those cases had religious or philosophical reasons for vaccine refusal.

Researchers also used their findings to map the spread of measles cases in recent outbreaks. They found that unvaccinated individuals tended to be among the first few groups of people to contract the disease and pass it along, suggesting that unvaccinated people may have ignited many of the recent outbreaks and accelerated the spread of disease.

"What this latest comprehensive review illustrates is that individuals who refuse vaccines not only put themselves at risk for disease," commented Dr. Matthew Davis, a pediatrics researcher and deputy director of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. "It turns out that they also put others at risk too - even people who have been vaccinated before, but whose protection from those vaccinations may not be as strong as it used to be."

Help prevent outbreaks by making sure that your patients and family members are up-to-date on their vaccines!

Looking for effective strategies to discuss vaccines with parents?

See tips on creating a successful dialogue!

#NIIW <http://go.usa.gov/4EkP>

Take a Stand on Immunizing Your Adult Patients

Adapted from ANA ImmuNews, 2/22/16

Each year, vaccine-preventable diseases kill thousands of adults in the U.S., causing a significant human toll and a severe economic burden on our health care systems. Unfortunately, adult immunization rates remain low with long-standing gaps between national goals and actual adult immunization rates.

Health care providers serve a critical role in vaccination but are increasingly challenged by time, patient treatment focus, and prioritization of other preventative measures. The strength and impact of a health care provider's recommendation is paramount to overcoming low compliance. Your patients trust you to give them the best advice on how to protect their health. Thus, it is increasingly important for every health care professional to provide immunization assessment and recommendations, and to administer needed vaccines or refer patients to a vaccination provider.

Make adult immunization a standard of care in your practice by adopting the following steps:

1. **Assess** the immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter.
2. **Recommend** the vaccines that your patients need.
3. **Administer** needed vaccines or **Refer** your patients to a vaccination provider.
4. **Document** vaccines received by your patients in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR).

For more information on the standards for adult immunization practice, go to: <http://1.usa.gov/23pyCyF>

CDC, AAP & AAFP have updated resources about vaccines for healthcare professionals to share with parents.

#NIIW

<http://go.usa.gov/4EKHI>

Vaccine Information Statement Update: Meningococcal and HPV9 VIS Revised

CDC recently released updated editions of the Meningococcal ACWY and HPV-9 Vaccine Information Statements (VIS). Neither differs significantly from the existing VIS, but both are now final, as opposed to interim, editions. Providers should begin using the new VIS immediately. The [updated VIS are posted](#) on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Immunization website at 1.usa.gov/1V7ydvI.

Please note that this does NOT affect the separate MenB VIS.

In Michigan, it is important that vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives be given the Michigan versions of VIS because they include information about the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). By state law in Michigan, parents must be informed about MCIR. Vaccine Information Statements that are obtained from other sources (e.g., from the CDC or IAC websites) do not contain information about MCIR.

The [Important VIS Facts handout](#), which includes the current VIS dates, has also been updated. It is posted on the same web page as the Vaccine Information Statements.

There is always a lag time before translations are published. Once the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) posts translations, MDHHS will add the MCIR language onto the translations and post them on the MDHHS website as soon as we are able to do so.

These documents are posted on our website at 1.usa.gov/1V7ydvI.

ECBT Launches Vaccinate Your Family Website

ECBT, The Vaccine Top 5, March Media Coverage, 3/31/16

Every Child By Two's (ECBT) Vaccinate Your Baby program has expanded to include the whole family. Visit their new website, [Vaccinate Your Family](#), for information on vaccines for every age group. ECBT also delivers Daily News Clips to keep partners informed. Sign up by sending an email to info@ecbt.org.

Interested in showing your support for vaccines through social media? Then be sure to check out their Vaccinate Your Family Facebook page and [Shot of Prevention](#) blog to engage in community discussions about immunization issues. You can also follow them on Twitter @ShotOfPrev and @EveryChildBy2.

MDHHS Immunization Brochures Available

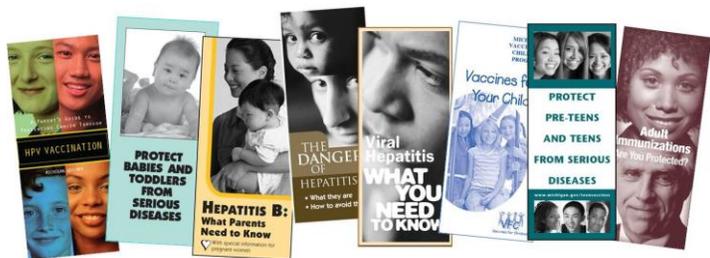
The following brochures can be ordered, free of charge, on the [Healthy Michigan Clearinghouse website](http://www.healthymichigan.com):

- *Viral Hepatitis, What you need to know* (3/16); recently revised; changes were significant.
- *HPV Vaccination* (3/16); recently revised, changes were significant. (will be available in early May)
- *The Dangers of Hepatitis B: What they are, How to avoid them* (revised 2/16). There were only two minor changes.
- *Protect Pre-Teens and Teens from Serious Diseases* (Revised 1/14); will be updated in the next 2-3 months
- *Adult Immunizations: Are you protected?* (Revised 1/14); will be updated in May
- *Protect Babies and Toddlers from Serious Diseases* (Revised 1/15)
- *Vaccines for Your Child* – about the Vaccines for Children program (Revised 3/14)
- *Hepatitis B: What Parents Need to Know* (Revised 5/14)

We recommend that you recycle older versions of brochures and replace them with the most up-to-date versions. The only exception is the Dangers of Hepatitis B brochure. There were only two minor changes to this brochure and we are recommending that you use up your existing supply before ordering more.

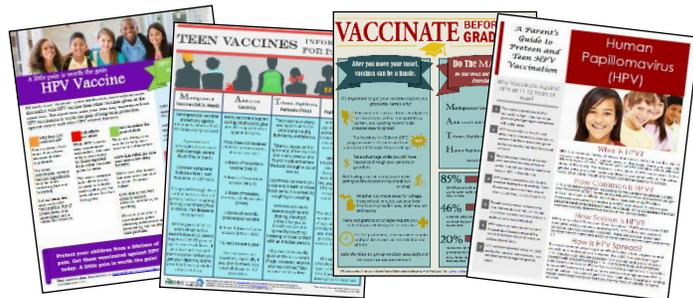
When additional brochures are updated, we will notify you through this newsletter.

These brochures can be ordered online at www.healthymichigan.com > Enter Site > Immunizations.



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Adolescent Resources at Clearinghouse

These materials are available free of charge on the [Healthy Michigan Clearinghouse website](http://www.healthymichigan.com). You can get some of these flyers in multiple languages.

- *Tips for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine* – Flyer
- *HPV Fact Sheet with Personal Story* – Flyer
- *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* Flyer (printed copies available in English, Arabic, and Spanish)*
- *HPV Vaccine: A Little Pain Is Worth The Gain** Flyer
- *Teen Vaccines: Info for Parents** Flyer (printed copies available in English, Arabic, and Spanish)
- *Vaccinate Before You Graduate** Flyer

*Materials are available for download in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish at the [AIM Website](http://www.aimkit.org).

These flyers and posters can be ordered online at www.healthymichigan.com > Enter Site > Immunizations.

Additional materials are available for [download on the AIM Kit website](http://www.aimkit.org). Any of these materials can be printed and used in your office.

Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

To subscribe to the [Michigan Immunization Timely Tips](http://www.healthymichigan.com) (MITT) newsletter, send an email to cmarkzon@msms.org and enter the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You will receive this newsletter, as well as additional immunization updates on a periodic basis. MITT is posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize; Health Care Professionals/Providers > Provider Education Resources. For more information, contact Rosemary Franklin at franklinr@michigan.gov

This April,
don't be fooled.



The flu is much more
serious than that.
Get vaccinated today.



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

Save the Date!

Michigan's Annual Immunization Conferences Fall 2016

Dates & Locations

Oct. 11	Marquette
Oct. 13	Gaylord
Oct. 25	Flint Twp.
Oct. 27	Troy
Oct. 28	Dearborn
Nov. 15	Kalamazoo
Nov. 16	Grand Rapids
Nov. 18	Lansing



Who Should Attend

Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, public health staff, pharmacists, physicians, physician assistants, medical and nursing students, practice managers, and other health care professionals who are interested in learning more about current immunization practice in Michigan.

About the Conferences

Immunization Quality Improvement AFIX Awards will be distributed at the conferences. Find out if your practice may be eligible for an award by reviewing the award criteria on the [MDHHS Immunization Conferences website](#).

When more conference details become available, they will be posted on the conference website at <http://1.usa.gov/1RzZSkW>

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has sponsored the fall regional immunization conferences annually since 1994.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Division of Immunization

2016 Immunization Quality Improvement AFIX Award Criteria



The Michigan AFIX program is focused on quality improvement of immunizations. The process reviews not only vaccine coverage levels, but also the challenges and barriers occurring at the practice. A quality improvement plan is formulated and identifies strategies that can assist the practice with improving immunization coverage level percentages.

The Local County Health Department Immunization staff conduct annual compliance site visits with provider offices participating in the Vaccine For Children (VFC) program. The visit also includes an AFIX component identifying areas to focus efforts for quality improvement.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has announced the criteria for the 2016 Immunization Quality Improvement AFIX awards. The awards are distributed at the Michigan Regional Immunization Conferences.

There are four categories (2 pediatric and 2 adolescent) for these awards. The data will be retrieved from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) in July 2016. All primary care provider offices (*VFC participation is not required*) with more than 10 patients in the age cohorts will be recognized.

Category 1

Immunization providers that have pediatric patients (n>10) 24-36 months old with minimum of 90% coverage level for vaccine series: 4:3:1:3:3:1:4:2 (*4 doses of DTaP, 3 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 3 doses Hib, 3 doses HepB, 1 dose Varicella, 4 doses PCV and 2 doses HepA*)

Category 2

Immunization providers that have pediatric patients (n>10) 24-36 months old with minimum of 75% coverage level for 2015-2016 seasonal influenza

Category 3

Immunization providers that have adolescent patients (n>10) 13-18 years old with minimum of 90% coverage level for vaccine series: 1:3:2:3:2:1:3 (*1 dose Tdap, 3 doses polio, 2 doses MMR, 3 doses HepB, 2 doses varicella, 1 dose MCV, 3 doses HPV*)

Category 4

Immunization providers that have adolescent patients (n>10) 13-18 years old with minimum of 75% coverage level for 2015-2016 seasonal influenza

For more information or questions about vaccines please contact your local county health department immunization staff.

Questions about the AFIX Immunization Awards please contact:
Stephanie Sanchez, MDHHS AFIX Quality Improvement Coordinator
at phone: 517-335-9011 or by email at: Sanchezs@michigan.gov

