

# THE SHARPSHOOTER

August 2011

A Publication for Local Health Departments & TVFC Providers serving Health Service Regions 2 & 3



## NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). It is the perfect time to remind family, friends, co-workers, and those in the community to catch up on their vaccinations. Parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season.

Immunization is one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild polio virus in the United States, and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles and other diseases. But despite these efforts, tens of thousands of people in the United States still die today from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Being aware of the vaccines that are recommended and making sure that we receive immunizations, are critical to protecting ourselves and our communities.

A variety of resources promoting immunization and NIAM can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov>

## A SAMPLE TEXT TO PREVENT HEPATITIS B VIRUS TRANSMISSION

The State of Texas provides legislative directives for Hepatitis B screening to protect its residents. Statutory requirements and rules must be shared with health care providers and labor and delivery facilities to reduce the incidence of transmission of Perinatal Hepatitis B. The Texas Health and Safety Code, § 81.090 requires serologic testing during pregnancy at the first prenatal visit and on admission for delivery. Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) and the birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for newborns who are born to positive HBsAg or unknown status mothers for protection from the Hepatitis B virus infection.

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has created a sample text for healthcare settings regarding the recommendations. Delivery hospitals can adapt the sample text to create and implement their policies and procedures. To access the "Sample Text for Admission Orders for Labor and Delivery and Newborn Units to Prevent Hepatitis B Virus Transmission," go to: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2130.pdf>.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also recommend that all newborns receive the birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine before hospital discharge. It will provide protection to the newborn if there is a false negative result on the mother's HBsAg at delivery. To access the "Sample Text for Admission Orders for Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose in the Newborn Nursery," please go to: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2131.pdf>.

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## INFLUENZA VACCINE EXPIRED JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2011



Here are a few reminders about what to do with the Influenza vaccine that expired June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

- ❖ Remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator. Place it in a box or bag and label “Do not use – Expired”.
- ❖ Complete a Vaccine Loss Report form (VLR). If you do not have the most current copy dated 12/07, call your Local Health Dept or Health Service Region to request one. You can send the completed form when you send the next month’s report.
- ❖ Show the vaccines taken out of inventory on your C-33 (monthly report).
- ❖ Your Local Health Dept will request a return UPS label from State Health Services, which will be mailed to you.
- ❖ Instructions on how to return the vaccine will be with the return UPS label.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your Local Health Dept or Cindy Grier, Vaccine Coordinator, HSR 2/3 at 817-264-4793.

## THE EXPANSION OF IMMTRAC



Since 1977 the Texas Department of State Health Services immunizations registry, ImmTrac, has been tracking the immunizations of children from birth to 18 years of age. Recently the Texas Legislature mandated that ImmTrac be expanded to a lifetime registry for all Texans (Senate Bill 346, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature).

When a child who is registered with ImmTrac reaches 18 years of age, their immunization record is held in limbo until they become 19 years of age. At 19, their immunization record is permanently purged. To prevent this from happening, all 18 year olds and soon-to-be 18 year olds should be informed of the lifetime registry and be given the opportunity to maintain their record in ImmTrac. Eighteen year olds must sign an ImmTrac Adult Consent Form re-consenting for their record to be maintained in the lifetime registry. Copies of the *ImmTrac Adult consent Form* may be downloaded from the website at; [www.ImmTrac.com](http://www.ImmTrac.com).

The expansion of the registry gives all Texans the opportunity to have their confidential immunization records maintained in ImmTrac. To achieve this, parental consent must be given for a child under 18 years of age. For clients 18 years and older, an ImmTrac Adult Consent Form must be signed.

Often people associate immunization records with enrolling children in daycare or school, but immunization records may also be needed for work, travel, or when there are concerns about an illness.

(ImmTrac continued on page 3)

(ImmTrac continued from page 2)

ImmTrac helps providers ensure that children receive age appropriate and timely vaccinations and it can do the same for adults. No one is ever too old for immunizations.

If you are not currently registered with ImmTrac as an authorized provider, please call ImmTrac Customer Support at 800-348-9158 or send an email to: [ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us). Or for additional information on the consent process, please contact Sandi Geisler at 817-264-4811.



### **VACCINE REFRIGERATION**

The Texas summer is upon us and we should be aware that the heat can play havoc with refrigeration. Refrigerator temperature should be maintained between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). For vaccines that require freezing, the freezer temperature should be maintained at +5°F (-15°C) or colder. Check the temperature of the refrigerator and freezer early in the morning and late in the afternoon to assure that the power is on, the storage unit is on, the door is not ajar, and that everything is in good working condition. This is especially important on Friday afternoon.

**Source:** Texas Department of State Health Services.



### **MEASLES CASES AT A 15-YEAR HIGH**

Health officials say 118 cases of measles have been reported in the United States so far this year-the highest number this early in the year since 1996. (The United States normally sees just 50 cases of measles in a year). Of the 118 cases, 105 cases were travelers or persons linked to travelers coming into the U.S from other countries. (Including U.S. residents returning from abroad).Unvaccinated persons accounted for 105 of the 118 cases.

The increased number of measles importations into the U.S. this year underscores the importance of vaccination to prevent measles and its complications.

Because of ongoing importations of measles to the United States, health-care providers should suspect measles in persons with a febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms (e.g., cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis) who have recently traveled

abroad or have had contact with travelers. Providers should isolate and report suspected measles cases immediately to their local health department or Regional Epidemiologist.

Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing measles and its complications. MMR vaccine is recommended routinely for all children at age 12-15 months, with a second dose at age 4-5 years. For adults with no evidence of immunity to measles, one dose of MMR vaccine is recommended unless the adult is in the high-risk group (i.e., health care personnel, international travelers, or students at post-high school educational institutions), in which case, two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended. Maintaining high immunization rates with MMR vaccine is the cornerstone of outbreak prevention.

Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/> for the full report.



# NEWS AND UPDATES IN IMMUNIZATIONS

## CDC'S "Immunization Update 2011" Live Satellite Broadcast and Webcast

This webcast is scheduled at two times on August 4. The first time is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET; the rebroadcast is from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. ET. Both will feature a live question-and-answer session in which participants nationwide can interact with the course instructors by email and fax.

Anticipated topics include influenza, meningococcal, zoster, Tdap, and human papillomavirus vaccines. Other emerging issues will be discussed, including the latest information from ACIP's June 2011 meeting. The course instructors are Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH; Donna Weaver, RN, MN; and JoEllen Wolicki, BSN, RN. All are with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) at the CDC.

The broadcasts will be edited and made available as a self-study program 4 to 6 weeks after the broadcast. The program will be available in DVD and web-on-demand formats.

For additional information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/epivac>.

## The 2011 "Parent's Guide To Childhood Immunizations" and the 2011 "Immunization Works" CD are available at no charge from the CDC

The 2011 "Parent's Guide To Childhood Immunizations" helps parents and caregivers learn about the role vaccines play in keeping children healthy. The color booklet, illustrated with children's artwork, has five parts plus a glossary and list of resources.

To order the booklet, go to the NCIRD ordering form at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncird.aspx> and scroll down to the subhead titled "Other Materials". This booklet is Item # 21-1013.

To read the booklet online or download it, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide>.

The 2011 "Immunization Works" CD includes the 2011 Pink Book, CDC/ACIP immunization recommendations, immunization-related MMWR articles, and other documents of interest.

To order the CD, go to the NCIRD ordering form at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncird.aspx> and scroll down to the subhead titled "Immunization Multi Media". The CD is Item # 22-0694.

## "Current Issues in Vaccines" Webinar, Featuring Dr. Paul Offit, Is Available Through August 23<sup>rd</sup>

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Vaccine Education Center (VEC) at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics held their first Vaccine Update webinar. The speaker was Paul Offit, MD, Chief, Infectious Diseases Division of CHOP, and Director of VEC. Topics covered included pertussis, febrile seizures following vaccination, influenza, and recent anti-vaccine activity.

An archived copy of the webinar is available until midnight ET August 23, 2011. To view the webinar online, go to: <http://vaccine.chop.edu/webinars>. Scroll down to the subhead titled "Current Issues in Vaccines—Spring 2011." Click on the link titled "View an archived copy of the presentation." Click the "Launch Webcast" button on the next screen.



## CURRENT VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT (VIS) DATES

DTaP/DT	05/17/07
Hepatitis A	03/21/06
Hep B	07/18/07
Hib	12/16/98
<b>HPV</b>	<b>05/03/11 NEW!</b>
<b>Influenza (LAIV)</b>	<b>07/26/11 NEW!</b>
<b>Influenza (TIV)</b>	<b>07/26/11 NEW!</b>
Meningococcal	01/28/08
MMR	03/13/08
Multi-vaccine	09/18/08
PCV	04/16/10
PPSV	10/06/09
Polio	01/01/00
Rotavirus	12/06/10
Shingles	10/06/09
Td & Tdap	11/18/08
Varicella	03/13/08

### Use of the VIS is mandatory!

Before a National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act-covered vaccine is administered to anyone (this includes adults!), you must give the patient or the parent/legal representative a copy of the most current VIS available for that vaccine. Make sure you give the patient time to read the VIS prior to the administration of the vaccine.

You must record on the patient's chart the date the VIS was given and the publication date of the VIS, (which appears on the bottom of the VIS).

VIS updates are available in English and other languages at: <http://www.immunize.org/vis>.

## IMMUNIZATION STAFF

Please direct your immunization questions to your Health Service Region 2/3

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