



WEEKLY UPDATE – APRIL 8, 2010

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ACTION NEEDED

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INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

3. RULING ON VACCINES AND AUTISM
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UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

6. WALK FOR AUTISM IN TALLAHASSEE
7. CEED ONLINE SUMMER COURSES

ACTION NEEDED

ATTACHMENT I COMMENTS

Reminder: Comments on the draft Attachment I for 2010-2011 are **due April 14**. For more information, see ESSO Weekly Memo April 1, 2010.

FAMILY SURVEY LEAD

Early Steps is finalizing the 2010 Family Survey process and is requesting the assistance of each Local Early Steps by identifying an individual to serve as the Local Family Survey Lead for the planning and implementation of this process. We are requesting that you email Kelly Purvis at Kelly_Purvis@doh.state.fl.us **no later than April 14, 2010** with the name and email address of the individual fulfilling this role for your Local Early Steps. Thank you for your continued partnership with this process!

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS – SPECIAL MASTERS RULING ON VACCINES AND AUTISM (With Attachment)

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization wishes to bring to your attention the following important information concerning vaccine safety, specifically the March 10, 2010 ruling by U.S. Court of Federal Claims Special Masters that ***thimerosal-containing vaccines do not cause autism***.

This topic has been of considerable concern to the scientific community, parents, and public health officials. Herein, we provide links to valid information and articles which will be of use to you in discussing these issues.

Omnibus Autism Proceeding

The Omnibus Autism Proceeding was created by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to handle the large volume of claims that vaccines induce autism. In order to ensure that the over 4,900 cases are dealt with in a timely manner, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims has divided the claims into three theories:

- Theory 1 (conducted in 2007): On February 12, 2009, the Special Masters ruled that the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR), in combination with thimerosal-containing vaccines (TCVs), do not cause or contribute to autism.

Downloads & Articles <http://vaccinesafety.ecbt.org/ecbt/theory1.htm>

- Theory 2 (heard in 2008): On March 12, 2010, the Special Masters ruled that thimerosal-containing vaccines do not contribute to or cause autism.

Downloads & Articles <http://vaccinesafety.ecbt.org/ecbt/theory2.htm>

- Theory 3: The theory that MMR vaccine alone can cause autism was voluntarily dismissed by the Petitioners' Steering Committee in 2008.

Autism Decisions and Background Information by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims Special Masters:
<http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026>.

Editorial article by Dr. Paul Offit on the Infectious Diseases in Children's Pediatric Supersite:
<http://www.pediatricsupersite.com/view.aspx?rid=62004>.

These rulings and the formal retraction by the Lancet of the controversial Wakefield paper, (The Lancet, [Volume 375, Issue 9713](#), Page 445, 6 February 2010, [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(97\)11096-0/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(97)11096-0/abstract)) are now fundamental to us in our efforts to alleviate some fears that parents of unimmunized children still harbor.

Please distribute this important information to colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners who provide immunizations, or education to parents. Please place this information prominently on your website.

NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning April 19, 2010, the Newborn Screening Program will be sending a packet of information to parents of infants identified with a hearing loss through Newborn Hearing Screening. The packet will consist of the following:

1. A letter stating that the baby was referred to Early Steps and that someone from Early Steps will make contact soon.
2. An Early Steps brochure.
3. An Early Steps SHINE (Service Hearing Impaired Newborns Effectively) brochure.
4. A DVD titled "Infant Hearing Guide" from the University of Arkansas that explains the screening/diagnosis process, causes of hearing loss, amplification options, communication methods, early intervention services, and resources.
5. A BabySigns Quick Reference Guide –a folded 8x16 laminated card that provides illustrations of communication signs.
6. A "Communicate with your child" booklet that explains the various communication options available.
7. A "Florida Resource Guide for Families of Young Children with Hearing Loss" book.

In addition, parents will receive the following from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

- A. A CD-ROM titled "A Parent's Guide to Hearing Loss".
- B. A brochure titled "Questions You May Want to Ask Your Child's Audiologist".
- C. A brochure titled "Questions You May Want to Ask Your Child's Genetic's Team".
- D. A brochure titled "Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor Questions".
- E. A brochure titled "Speech-Language Pathologist Questions".
- F. A brochure titled "A Parent's Guide to Genetics & Hearing Loss".
- G. A brochure titled "Early Intervention: Communication and Language for Families of Deaf and Hard-Of-Hearing Infants".

You are being provided this information to avoid any unnecessary duplication in case your program/office sends any of these materials to families of babies identified with a hearing loss through newborn hearing screening. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these plans, please contact Pam Tempson of the Newborn Screening Program at Pam_Tempson@doh.state.fl.us or 850-245-4673.

NECTAC NEWS

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

**2ND ANNUAL TALLAHASSEE WALK FOR AUTISM
(With Attachment)**

You are cordially invited to attend the 2nd Annual Tallahassee Walk for Autism in conjunction with Children's Week events at the State Capitol on Thursday, April 15th, 2010 followed by a press conference with Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp. Please stay for a special screening of HBO's Temple Grandin, a movie that paints a portrait of a woman who heroically overcomes life's challenges and credits autism for her many achievements.

Additionally, the Task Force is holding its fourth meeting pursuant to Executive Order 09-82 on Friday April 16, 2010 in Tallahassee, and would like to extend a warm invitation for you to attend.

Event details are as follows:

2nd Annual Tallahassee Walk for Autism

Start: FSU Law School

425 West Jefferson Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32306

End: The Capitol

Walk: 12:00 p.m. sign-up, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. walk; Additional information at autismfl.com

Press Conference: 2:00 p.m. at Capitol, Cabinet Room

*Hosted by the Florida State University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and the Florida chapter of the Autism Society of America. Proceeds are to benefit Floridians with autism.

Special Screening of Temple Grandin

The Capitol, Cabinet Room

400 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Screening: 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Additional information at

<http://www.hbo.com/movies/temple-grandin/index.html>

Autism Task Force Meeting

The Capitol, 22nd Floor

400 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Meeting: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please feel free to distribute this information. If you are interested in attending any event, please RSVP to Christine Brenco. She may be contacted via e-mail at Christine_Brenco@apd.state.fl.us, or by calling 850-408-8956.

**CENTER FOR EARLY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CEED)
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
SUMMER 2010 ONLINE COURSE SESSIONS**

CEED welcomes registrations for our five Summer 2010 online course sessions.

Continuing education certificates for 24 or 36 clock hours, approved and issued by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, can be earned by successfully completing course requirements.

Our courses are also approved for members of the International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) (maximum: 24 clock hours per course but fee for 36 clock hour courses remains \$340).

Click on the links below to learn more about each course and instructor, to view a general course introduction video, and [to register](#).

Please register for courses no later than one week before the session begins. There are no required prerequisites to participate in these courses. Five courses begin on one of two dates: June 7 and June 14.

June 7 to August 9, 2010

Introduction to Infant Mental Health

(24 clock hours), \$225 plus required textbook

Instructor: Marit Appeldoorn, MSW, LICSW, St. David's Child Development and Family Services

Parent-Infant Pathways:

An Educator's Guide to Providing Information and Support to New Parents

(36 clock hours), \$340 plus required materials

Instructor: Jolene Pearson, B.E.S., M.S., IMH-E® (IV), Minneapolis Public Schools, Early Childhood Special Education, Interagency Facilitator

June 14 to August 16, 2010

Premature Babies and Their Parents:

Information and Insights for Early Intervention Personnel

(36 clock hours), \$340 plus required materials

Instructor: Jolene Pearson, M.S., IMH-E® (IV), Minneapolis Public Schools, Early Childhood Special Education

Prenatal Developmental Intervention:

For Professionals Working with Families During Pregnancy

(24 clock hours), \$225 plus required materials

Instructor: Joann O'Leary, Ph.D., MPH, MS

[Bridging Education and Mental Health](#)

(24 clock hours), \$225 plus required materials

Instructor: Leah Hjelseh, MA, Doctoral candidate, Educational Psychology

More Information:

[CEED online courses](#)

[Costs and How to Register](#)

[Group rates](#): There are discounted course fees for organizations who enroll a group of people.

[2010 CEED Online Course Schedule](#) (pdf)

[2011 CEED Online Course Schedule](#) (pdf)

Unfamiliar with distance education? [Learn how we conduct our online courses.](#)

If you would like a sample syllabus or have questions:

Please contact Karen Anderson, CEED Online Course Manager, at 612-625-6617 or ander352@umn.edu.