



Message From the Section Administrator

Robert M. Griffin

Welcome to the 2018 fourth quarter issue of IMMU-NEWS.

The holiday season has come and gone. A brand new year is upon us, and it is a great time to reflect on the successful year we had. The Immunization Section is gearing up for another successful year ahead!

This quarter marked a few national observances of note—November 12 was World Pneumonia Day, and December 2–8 was National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). Posters were placed in all buildings at Central Office to promote the importance of flu vaccination.

In this issue, you will read about NIVW, pneumonia, flu prevention, Florida's HPV Champion, and other immunization-related topics.

The Immunization Section had a few staff additions, and a new arrival of note since the last issue.

Jacqueline Baumeister has joined the VFC Team as an Operations Analyst I.

Dauda Fadeyi has joined the Field Staff Team in Area 7 as an Operations Analyst I.

Tara Fant has joined the Field Staff Team in Area 3 as an OPS Operations Analyst I.

Alyssa Gentile has joined the Field Staff Team in Area 5 as an OPS Operations Analyst I.

Welcome aboard Jacqueline, Dauda, Tara, and Alyssa—we look forward to working with you!

Brittany Roberts, Health Educator, Clinical/Quality Improvement (CQI) Team, along with her husband James, welcomed a baby girl on November 13—Kennedy Noel. Congratulations to Brittany, James, and their new bundle of joy!

We want to wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy new year.

Do not forget to get your flu shot!

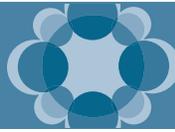
Enjoy this issue, and visit us at [ImmunizeFlorida.org](https://www.immunizeflorida.org)!

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National Influenza Vaccination Week

December... was the month of holiday cheer, celebration, and gift giving. But, the one “gift” you never want to give or receive is the flu! December 2–8 was National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). Vaccination efforts should continue through the holiday season and beyond—it is not too late to vaccinate!



Put a wrap on the flu!

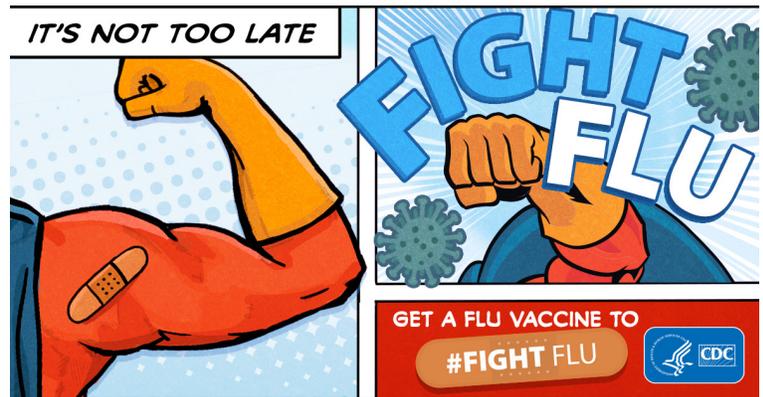
A few things are new this flu season:

- Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses (the B/Victoria component was changed and the influenza A[H3N2] component was updated).
- For the 2018–2019 season, the nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or “LAIV”) is again a recommended option for influenza vaccination of persons for whom it is appropriate.
- Most regular-dose, egg-based flu shots are quadrivalent.
- All recombinant vaccine is quadrivalent. No trivalent recombinant vaccine is available this season.

- Cell-grown flu vaccine is quadrivalent. For this vaccine, the influenza A(H3N2) and both influenza B reference viruses are cell-derived, and the influenza A(H1N1) is egg-derived. All these reference viruses are grown in cells to produce the components of Flucelvax.
- No intradermal flu vaccine is available.
- The age recommendation for Fluarix Quadrivalent was changed from 3 years old and older to 6 months and older.
- The age recommendation for Afluria Quadrivalent was changed from 18 years old and older to 5 years old and older.
- Baloxavir marboxil (trade name Xofluza®) is a new influenza single-dose antiviral drug approved October 24, 2018 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Baloxavir marboxil is approved for the treatment of acute uncomplicated flu in people 12 years old and older who have had flu symptoms for less than 48 hours.

And as always, in addition to getting a seasonal flu vaccine, you can take everyday preventive actions like staying away from sick people and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others.

Vaccination is prevention!



Standard Immu-News Abbreviations

- ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- AFIX: Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, eXchange
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CHD: County Health Department
- FDOH: Florida Department of Health
- DTaP: Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis vaccine
- FL LINC: Florida Leading Immunizations Network of Coalitions
- Florida SHOTS™: Florida State Health Online Tracking System
- HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HPV: Human Papillomavirus
- NIAM: National Immunization Awareness Month
- PDF: Portable Document Format
- PITCH: Pinellas Immunization Team for Community Health
- SRAHEC: Suwannee River Area Health Education Center
- VFC: Vaccines for Children



Flu Facts

Who needs a flu shot?

Most likely, you do! Influenza is the most frequent cause of death from a vaccine-preventable disease in the United States. In addition to fatalities, seasonal influenza is also responsible for more than 200,000 hospitalizations per year. Rates of infection from seasonal influenza are highest among children, but the risks for complications, hospitalizations, and deaths are higher among adults 65 years and older, children younger than 5 years, and people of any age who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza. Different flu shots are approved for people of different ages, and everyone should get a vaccine that is appropriate for their age.

How does flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

How is flu diagnosed and is there treatment for flu?

It is very difficult to distinguish flu from other viral or bacterial respiratory illnesses based on symptoms alone. There are tests available to diagnose flu, and there are antiviral drugs that can be used to treat flu illness.

What is the period of contagiousness?

You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. People with flu are most contagious in the first three to four days after their illness begins. Some otherwise healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Young children and people with weakened immune systems might be able to infect others with flu viruses for an even longer period of time.

What are some of the complications of flu?

Complications can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, and worsening of chronic medical conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

Who can get the flu shot?

There are inactivated influenza vaccines that are approved for people as young as 6 months of age, and some vaccines are only approved for adults. For example, the recombinant influenza vaccine is for people aged 18 years and older, and the adjuvanted and high-dose inactivated vaccines are for people aged 65 years

and older. Flu shots are especially recommended for pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions.

Who should not get the flu shot?

Children younger than 6 months of age are too young to get a flu shot. People with severe, life-threatening allergies to flu vaccine or any ingredient in the vaccine, which might include gelatin, antibiotics, or other ingredients should not receive the vaccine. See special considerations regarding egg allergy for more information about egg allergies and flu vaccine. Those who have ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralyzing illness, also called GBS), should consult their physician about their GBS history before getting vaccinated.

Which flu vaccines are available during the 2018–2019 flu season?

Multiple manufactures are producing flu vaccine for the U.S. market. Inactivated vaccines are produced using egg-based, cell culture-based and recombinant technologies. Most inactivated flu vaccines will be quadrivalent (containing four strains of flu virus) rather than trivalent (three strains). The nasal spray vaccine is approved for use in people 2 years through 49 years of age. It is an option for healthy, non-pregnant people in this age group.

How do flu vaccines work?

Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season.

Why do I need a flu vaccine every year?

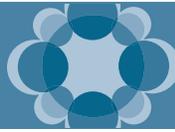
A flu vaccine is needed every season for two reasons. First, the body's immune response from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, because flu viruses are constantly changing, the formulation of the flu vaccine is reviewed each year and updated as needed to keep up with changing flu viruses.

When should the flu vaccine be given?

Optimally, vaccination should occur before onset of flu activity in the community. Health care providers should offer vaccination by the end of October, if possible, and vaccination activity should continue through the fall and winter months, as long as the flu virus is circulating in the community.

Vaccination is prevention—get your flu shot! It's not too late.

Adapted from www.cdc.gov.



World Pneumonia Day

Established in 2009, World Pneumonia Day is marked every year on November 12 to:

- Raise awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infectious killer of children under the age of 5.
- Promote interventions to protect against, prevent, and treat pneumonia and highlight proven approaches and solutions in need of additional resources and attention.
- Generate action, including continued donor investment, to combat pneumonia and other common yet sometimes deadly childhood diseases.

Pneumonia is one of the leading causes of deaths in children under 5 years old despite being easily preventable and treatable. Although vaccines and other preventative efforts are decreasing the burden of the disease, much more work is still required. Those living in poor communities are at highest risk of pneumonia. Every child, regardless of where they are born, deserves access to lifesaving vaccines and medicines.

Pneumonia is a preventable and treatable disease that sickens 155 million children under 5 and kills 1.6 million each year. This makes pneumonia the number one killer of children under 5, claiming more young lives than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined. Yet most people are unaware of pneumonia's overwhelming death toll. Because of this, pneumonia has been overshadowed as a priority on the global health agenda, and rarely receives coverage in the news media. World Pneumonia Day helps to bring this health crisis to the public's attention and encourages policymakers and grassroots organizers alike to combat the disease.



The facts

 Pneumonia is the **#1** infectious disease killer of children under 5

99% of pneumonia deaths in children under 5 occur in low & middle income countries

Hep B Birth Dose Honor Roll Adds Three Florida Hospitals

On July 16, 2013, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) launched the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that have attained high coverage rates for administering hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

To be included in the IAC's Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll, a birthing institution should have:

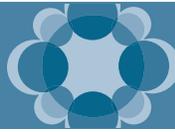
- Achieved, over a 12-month period, a coverage rate of 90 percent or greater for administering hepatitis B vaccine before hospital discharge to all newborns, regardless of weight.
- Implemented written policies, procedures, and protocols to protect all newborns from hepatitis B virus infection prior to hospital discharge.

More than 400 hospitals nationwide have been added to the Honor Roll. However, prior to 2017, no Florida hospitals had applied to be recognized. After completing a perinatal hepatitis B medical record review at a hospital in Cape Coral, Suzanne Victor, RN, a Community Health Nursing Consultant on the CQI Team, encouraged the hospital to apply. Shortly thereafter, the hospital became the first Florida hospital on the Honor Roll. Since then, three other hospitals have applied and been added to the Honor Roll after being encouraged by CQI Team's Community Health Nursing Consultants.

Florida hospitals currently on the Immunization Action Coalition Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll are:

- Cape Coral Hospital, Cape Coral, FL
Reported a coverage rate of 97 percent from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
- Florida Hospital Waterman, Tavares, FL
Reported a coverage rate of 92 percent from 5/22/2017 to 5/23/2018
- HealthPark Medical Center, Fort Myers, FL
Reported a coverage rate of 95 percent from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
- Jackson Hospital, Marianna, FL
Reported a coverage rate of 98 percent from 9/1/2017 to 9/1/2018
- Rockledge Regional Medical Center, Rockledge, FL
Reported a coverage rate of 95 percent from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

The Immunization Section Clinical/Quality Improvement Team RNs are so proud to finally have birthing hospital representation in Florida and will move forward with adding more to the list!



HPV Vaccines Offer Disease Protection Pre-Teens Can Grow Into

When it comes to their kids, parents are always planning. Healthy dinners. Safe activities. One plan that is easy to make could have a tremendous benefit, even saving a life. That is planning to have pre-teens vaccinated against HPV, the leading cause of cervical and anal cancers.

“There are about 12,000 new cervical cancer cases each year in the United States,” said Dr. Melinda Wharton, Deputy Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). “Cervical cancer causes about 4,000 deaths in U.S. women each year. But vaccinating boys and girls against HPV greatly reduces the chances they will ever have to face this devastating disease.”

CDC recommends HPV vaccination for 11- and 12-year-old girls and boys, as well as for young women ages 13 through 26 and young men ages 13 through 21 who have not yet been vaccinated.

HPV vaccination protects girls against the HPV types that cause most cervical and anal cancers. Vaccination can also protect boys and girls against the HPV types that cause most genital warts.

Two doses of HPV vaccine are recommended for most persons starting the series before age 15. The second dose of HPV vaccine should be given 6 to 12 months after the first dose. Adolescents who receive 2 doses less than 5 months apart will require a third dose of HPV vaccine. Three doses of HPV vaccine are recommended for teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years, and for immunocompromised persons. The recommended 3-dose schedule is 0, 1–2 and 6 months. Three doses are recommended for immunocompromised persons (including those with HIV infection) aged 9–26 years.

While vaccinating against a sexually transmitted virus at age 11 or 12 might seem unnecessary, the pre-teen years are the best time to vaccinate. “The HPV vaccine only provides protection if it is given before exposure to HPV. Someone can be infected with HPV the very first time they have sexual contact with another person,” said Dr. Wharton. To get the most benefit from HPV vaccination, all three doses must be received before any kind of sexual activity with another person begins.

Atlanta mom Amber Zirkle recognizes the importance of vaccinating her children now for protection they’ll need in the future. Her 11-year-old daughter will get an HPV vaccine this year at her regular check-up. As for getting HPV vaccine for her 16-year-old son, Amber said, “I didn’t know it was available for boys. I’ll talk with the pediatrician about it.” She added, “Genital warts aren’t something I want my son to deal with.”

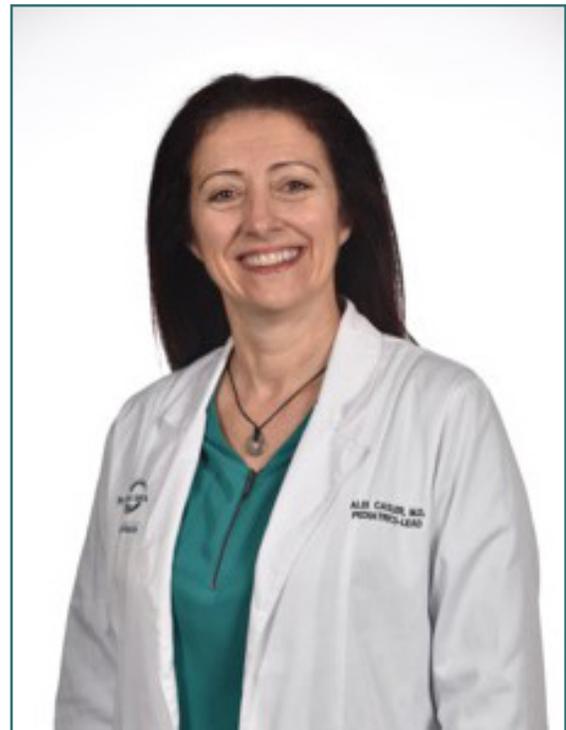
Other vaccines recommended specifically for pre-teens include meningococcal conjugate, which protects against bacterial meningitis, and Tdap, which boosts immunity against pertussis (whooping cough). Everyone age 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine.

2018 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award

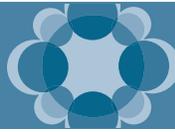
The Immunization Section is excited to announce Florida’s winner for the CDC’s 2018 *HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award*; Dr. Alix Casler. Dr. Casler is a nationally known pediatrician who has been dedicated but not limited to the Orlando area for almost 24 years. Dr. Casler attended Dartmouth College and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Since her start in pediatrics, Dr. Casler has been steadfast in her commitment to raising the bar in child and adolescent health. Her achievements have ranged from hosting her own weekly television show at the start of her career, to appearances on Animal Planet and Orlando Public television and the development of her nationally recognized training program as well as partnerships with the CDC and the Florida Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (FCAAP). Dr. Casler has taken initiative to collaborate with the above-mentioned organizations as well as the Florida Department of Health to raise awareness and increase vaccination rates for HPV. Her triumphs and goals are not only something the public health field should acknowledge, but her community and patients alike. Her actions have set the standards for leadership, innovation, and collaboration—creating the ability to bridge the gap between health care providers. Dr. Casler’s state and nationwide efforts in HPV immunization have been long standing and widespread, making her an exemplary recipient for the HPV Champion Award.

Congratulations to Dr. Alix Casler!



Alix G. Casler, MD, Pediatrician, Orlando Health



Current Vaccine Information Statements

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are produced by the CDC to explain the benefits and risks of a particular vaccine. Federal law requires all vaccine providers to provide patients or their parents/legal representatives the appropriate VIS whenever a vaccination is given.

VISs are available in English and many other languages at the CDC website at cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html.

Multi-, Routine-, & Non-Routine-Vaccine VISs

Multiple Vaccines (DTaP, Hib, Hepatitis B, Polio, and PCV13) (11/5/15)

UPDATED

This VIS may be used in place of the individual VISs for DTaP, Hib, hepatitis B, polio, and PCV13 when two or more of these vaccines are administered during the same visit. It may be used for infants and children receiving their routine 4-6 year vaccines.

Routine

- DTaP (8/24/18) **UPDATED**
- Hepatitis A (7/20/16)
- Hepatitis B (10/12/18) **UPDATED**
- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) (4/2/15)
- HPV - Gardasil-9 (12/2/16)
- Influenza - Live, Intranasal (8/7/15)
- Influenza - Inactivated (8/7/15)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) (2/12/18) **UPDATED**
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella & Varicella (MMRV) (2/12/18) **UPDATED**
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY and MPSV4) (8/24/18) **UPDATED**
- Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) (8/9/16)
- Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV13) (11/5/15)
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPSV23) (4/24/15)
- Polio (7/20/16)
- Rotavirus (2/23/18) **UPDATED**
- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) (2/24/15)
- Td (Tetanus, Diphtheria) (4/11/17)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) (2/12/18) **UPDATED**
- Zoster/Shingles (Live) (2/12/18) **UPDATED**
- Zoster/Shingles (Recombinant) (2/12/18) **UPDATED**

I Want Health Insurance for My Child. Whom Do I Call?

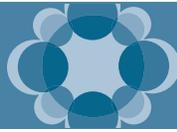
Florida KidCare is the state health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. It includes four different programs: MediKids, Healthy Kids, Children's Medical Services, and Medicaid. When applying for this insurance, Florida KidCare will check which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income.

Florida KidCare



If you would like to be added to the Immunization Section's mailing list and receive **IMMU-NEWS** electronically via email, please visit our mailing list registration page at floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/mailling-list.html.





Flu Prevention

These vaccination publications, and many more, are available as Adobe Acrobat PDFs and may be downloaded at: floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html.

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