Message From the Section Administrator

Robert M. Griffin

Welcome to the 2017 fourth quarter issue of IMMU-NEWS.

This time of year brings cool, crisp weather and the holidays are upon us. As we enjoy the season and time with family and friends, we should be aware that it is flu season. Influenza and pneumonia are on the rise, but both can be prevented with vaccination. Vaccinations can reduce doctor visits and missed work and school due to illness. Be sure to protect yourself and the ones you love with vaccination. It’s not too late to vaccinate!

You can also protect yourselves and your loved ones by covering your cough or sneeze, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizers, and staying home when you are sick. All of these measures will prevent the spread of germs that can cause illness.

This time of year we recognize two national health observances—World Pneumonia Day, which was observed on November 12, and National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), observed December 3–9. Posters were placed in all buildings at Central Office to promote vaccination awareness.

In this issue, you will read about influenza, pneumonia, HPV, immunization-related events and activities throughout the state, and much more.

The Immunization Section had a few staff changes of note since the last issue.

Suzanne Victor, RN, has joined the Clinical/Quality Improvement team as a Community Health Nursing Consultant.

Terry Paulson has joined the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program as an Operations Analyst. Terry previously worked as a contractor with the Department.

Welcome aboard Suzanne and Terry—we look forward to working with you!

We want to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy winter. Enjoy the cooler weather and time with family and friends!

Don't forget your flu shot—it's not too late to vaccinate!

Enjoy this issue, and visit us at ImmunizeFlorida.org!
Congratulations to the 2017 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award Winner!

The 2017 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award winners have been selected! This award program is a joint initiative between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Association of American Cancer Institutes, and the American Cancer Society that recognizes clinicians, clinics, practices, groups, and health systems effectively working to protect their adolescent patients against HPV-related cancers by achieving high HPV vaccination rates.

This year, the award program honored one champion from each of the 10 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regions. From region 4, the Department of Health-Collier Immokalee Clinic was selected.

The Department of Health-Collier Immokalee Clinic works with adults and children from a farm community in southwest Florida. Within the past four years, the clinic took on the massive challenge of improving HPV vaccination rates. Their journey to impressive rates began with tracking and offering HPV vaccine to all eligible children.

The clinic dedicated their focus to making sure all staff with any client contact are knowledgeable advocates for HPV vaccine and armed with the knowledge of its importance in cancer prevention. Providers recognized that cultural norms in the community they serve meant that discussing sexual contact was uncomfortable when parents asked about HPV vaccine. Therefore, staff refocused their conversations about HPV vaccine from being for a sexually transmitted infection to cancer prevention. This also helped frame the conversation in a way that was helpful for both staff and providers. The clinic then rephrased their intake questionnaire, since it seemed misleading by suggesting that vaccines not required for school entry, like HPV vaccine, were not important. As a response to these efforts, coverage rates steadily improved for HPV vaccine. Series completion rates of 76.2 percent for 13- to 15-year-olds makes the Department of Health-Collier Immokalee Clinic the 2017 HHS Region 4 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion!

8th Annual Women’s Day of Pampering in Brandon, FL

On October 14, the Department's Immunization Section and DOH-Hillsborough partnered together to exhibit at the 8th Annual Women’s Day of Pampering event in support of breast cancer awareness. The event was held in a faith-based setting where education was provided on HPV vaccinations, cervical cancer awareness, blood pressure screenings, diabetes/glucose screenings and immunization education. Women from different backgrounds learned about good health care practices and the importance of health prevention through immunizations. Over 50 participants received services and tips for staying healthy!

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
- DOH: 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
- NIIW: National Infant Immunization Week
- PDF: Portable Document Format
- PITCH: Pinellas Immunization Team for Community Health
- SRAHEC: Suwannee River Area Health Education Center
- VFC: Vaccines For Children
Know What You "Otter" Do?

Offer immunizations at every opportunity

Teach parents what immunizations their child needs

Tell parents when a child’s immunization is due

Encourage parents to keep up to date on all immunizations

Realize we can prevent life-threatening disease

DOH-Holmes, WIC, and Immunization staff are using their imagination... which we all "otter" do! Infant onesies were created to promote infant immunizations. The onesies advertise immunizations for infants with a colorful picture and statement, You "Otter" Immunize. How could any mom resist that? This somewhat "otterageous" idea is generating constant reminders to everyone with whom they come in contact. Just think about it...grocery stores, parks, malls, fall festivals, football games, fairs—the list goes on.

Let’s protect our precious babies and do what we "otter" do—immunize!

National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) was observed December 3-9. NIVW highlights the importance of encouraging flu vaccination during the holiday season and beyond. Family and friends will be hosting gatherings as the holiday season approaches. The flu vaccine will protect your loved ones from the flu and its complications. As long as the flu virus is circulating and causing illness, individuals should continue to get vaccinated. Peak flu activity typically occurs between December and February, although flu activity can occur through May. If an individual has not been vaccinated and has already gotten sick with the flu this season, they should still get vaccinated to provide protection from the other flu viruses circulating.

NIVW also focuses on the importance of getting individuals vaccinated who are at high risk of developing flu-related complications. High-risk individuals include young children, people with chronic health conditions, pregnant women, and adults aged 50 years and older. Caregivers to children under 6 months of age (who are too young to receive the vaccine) and those providing care to residents in nursing homes should also receive the flu vaccine. Getting the flu vaccine will provide protection to these vulnerable populations.

"Vaccines are the tugboats of preventive medicine."

--William Foege MD, MPH
World Pneumonia Day

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes November 12 as World Pneumonia Day. The focus of World Pneumonia Day is to bring attention to the severity of pneumonia and inspire health organizations to develop ways to fight pneumonia. This year’s theme is Stop Pneumonia: Invest in Child Health. The purpose of World Pneumonia Day is as follows:

• Raise awareness about pneumonia—the number one cause of death in children under five years of age
• Promote interventions to protect against, prevent, and treat pneumonia
• Generate action to fight pneumonia

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia in children followed by *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib). Most viral cases of pneumonia are the result of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). *Pneumocystis jiroveci* is one of the most common causes of pneumonia in infants infected with HIV and is responsible for one-fourth of all pneumonia deaths in HIV-infected infants.

Symptoms of bacterial and viral pneumonia can be similar in presentation, however, bacterial pneumonia generally presents with more rapid and severe symptoms than viral pneumonia. Pneumonia is diagnosed by the presence of rapid breathing or lower chest retraction, chest x-ray, blood tests, and cultures. Bacterial pneumonia can be treated with antibiotics but only one-third of children who acquire pneumonia receive the antibiotics they need to cure the infection. These may be oral medications or medications that are infused intravenously.

Vaccines that can prevent pneumonia include the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23). PCV13 is routinely administered to children ages 2 through 59 months. PPSV23 should also be administered to children 2 years of age and older with certain health conditions.

In summary, pneumonia can be prevented through vaccination, adequate nutrition, addressing environmental issues and ensuring that children have access to care to recover from their illnesses.

(Sources: World Health Organization and stoppneumonia.org)

2017 Faith Symposium

On November 7–8 the Immunization Section partnered with the Bureau of Chronic Disease at the 2017 Florida Faith Symposium. This event is one of Florida’s premier events that brings together more than 500 faith and government leaders to highlight best practices and initiate action to empower our children, families and communities. In addition, providing immunization awareness and education to community groups helps improve adolescent immunization coverage levels, particularly for Tdap, HPV, meningococcal, and influenza, among Florida’s adolescent and at-risk populations. This occasion featured more than 30 educational workshops designed to uplift and engage attendees in a spirited discussion on faith-based best practices in Florida. Partners in hosting the 2017 Florida Faith Symposium include the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council.

Left to right: Sade Collins, MPH, Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Coordinator; Shalawa Triggs, Asthma Program Manager; Cheryl Graham, Contract Manager/Health Initiatives Coordinator; Dr. Kelli Wells, MD, Deputy Secretary for Health; Cortlyn Starr, MPH, Health Educator, Immunization Section; Dr. Shamarial Roberson, DrPh, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention
IMMU-NEWS
Fourth Quarter 2017

Improve Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Rates in Your Practice

Let us continue to protect the children of Florida from human papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 80 million Americans (about one in four) are currently infected with some type of HPV, with about 14 million people in the U.S. becoming newly infected each year. HPV infection has been proven to cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus, mouth, and throat.

The Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the HPV vaccine in two doses for children between the ages of 9–14 years, and three doses for adolescents ages 15 years and older. Clinical trials have shown that the HPV vaccine is safe and can provide close to 100 percent protection against cervical pre-cancers and genital warts. Ensure that the patients at your practice are immunized and protected by making a strong recommendation. For resources to assist you in making a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccine and talking with parents, please visit: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/_documents/hcp-tipsheet-hpv.pdf.

Generate reminder recall reports in the Florida State Health Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS), or in your electronic health record, to reduce missed opportunities for HPV series completion amongst your patient population. Remember, HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. For additional CDC-developed tools and resources to assist you in making a strong recommendation, please visit: www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/tools-materials.html.

Vaccine Administration—You Call the Shots

The vaccine administration campaign, You Call the Shots, aims to remind providers of proper influenza vaccine administration techniques to avoid shoulder injury and other adverse events. We encourage you to help us spread this message and share the information with your health care providers and partners in your community. In particular, we encourage you to share this information with organizations that may be responsible for hiring temporary nurses or run large community or occupational worksite flu clinics within your jurisdiction.

The materials include links to comprehensive vaccine administration information and a short video on the correct technique for intramuscular injection, as well as a link to the new vaccine administration e-Learn.

The following materials are available:

- An infographic on administering flu vaccine to an adult
- A brief article that can be included in newsletters
- Social media marketing messages on vaccine administration

Shoulder injuries like bursitis and tendinitis resulting from improper injection technique are errors that can easily be avoided. Although it is not clear whether the occurrence of shoulder injuries after vaccination have increased, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) have had increased reports of shoulder injury related to vaccine administration over the last several years. These reports occur more commonly among adults than children. In addition, CDC’s influenza website also continues to offer a variety of free educational materials on the importance of flu vaccination, aimed at both health care providers and the general public.
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: www.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 (5/17/07)
- Hepatitis A (7/20/16)
- Hepatitis B (7/20/16)
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) (4/2/15)
- HPV - Gardasil-9 (12/2/16)
- HPV - Gardasil (5/17/13) (Interim)
- Influenza - Live, Intranasal (8/7/15)
- Influenza - Inactivated (8/7/15)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) (4/20/12) (Interim)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella & Varicella (MMRV) (5/21/10) (Interim)
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY and MPSV4) (3/31/2016)
- Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) (8/9/16)
- Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV13) (11/5/15)
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPSV23) (4/24/15)
- Polio (7/20/16)
- Rotavirus (4/15/15)
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster) (10/06/09)
- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) (2/24/15)
- Td (Tetanus, Diphtheria) (4/11/17) UPDATED
- Varicella (Chickenpox) (3/13/08) (Interim)

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.

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: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/mailing-list.html.
These flu prevention publications, and many more, are available as Adobe Acrobat PDFs and may be downloaded at: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/index.html.

Many Immunization Section materials are designed for customizing to display your logo, company name, address, email, web address, and phone number. We grant immunization partners rights to display their logo, provided that no parts of the Immunizations Section’s or the Department’s materials, logos, or brand are altered in any fashion. In addition, the Section’s products may not be sold. If you are interested in commercial printing of these documents, please contact Jennifer Ouzts at 850-901-6793, or by email at jennifer.ouzts@FLHealth.gov to request print-ready PDFs.

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Be a Part of a Healthier Florida

Your Customers Count On You!

Will You Be Pregnant This Flu Season?

Flu Prevention

GET MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG OR EMAIL IMMUNIZATION@FLHEALTH.GOV

Protect Yourself and the Ones You Love

FIGHT THE FLU
IT STARTS WITH YOU

Get vaccinated

Cover your cough or sneeze

Wash your hands

Stay home if you are sick

Top 3 Reasons to Get Your Flu Vaccine

Top 3 Ways to Stop the Spread of Flu

Protect Yourself and Your Patients. Get Your Flu Vaccine

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Protect Your Staff, Your Residents, Their Families, and the Community.

Immunization Workgroup,

Flu Prevention

Immune to Flu: A Guide for Your Community

Prevent Influenza Transmission at Social Events

• Provide hand sanitizer and encourage use at all events.

• Encourage and require face mask use at all events.

• Annual message to prevent the transmission of flu.

FIGHT THE FLU
IT STARTS WITH YOU

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Who Should Get the Seasonal Flu Vaccine?

- Infants and children of all ages
- Pregnant women
- Women planning a pregnancy
- People 65 years of age and older
- Healthcare and household contacts of persons with influenza
- People with chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities
- People living in facilities with sick persons
- People who work in health care settings with sick persons
- People who live in communities with sick persons
- People who travel internationally
- People who have contact with animals that can pass on influenza
- People who have contact with poultry, including
  - Workers who handle birds for any purpose, such as people with live or dead, or live or dead
  - People who work in poultry processing plants
  - People who work in poultry processing plants

Get vaccinated

Cover your cough or sneeze

Wash your hands

Stay home if you are sick

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Be Safe. Get Immunized.

As healthcare providers, you have a critical role to ensure Floridians are protected. The flu season is upon us, and it is important to stay prepared. Here are some steps to consider:

- Provide hand sanitizer and encourage use at all events.
- Encourage and require face mask use at all events.
- Annual message to prevent the transmission of flu.

FIGHT THE FLU
IT STARTS WITH YOU

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