IMMU-NEWS

First Quarter 2019

Immunizing Florida. Protecting Health.

Editorial Staff: Chrishonda Jenkins, Deborah Kahn, Holly Kelley, Barbara Nolen, Jennifer Ouzts, Celeste O. Phillips, Brittany Roberts, Suzanne Victor

In this Issue:

- Message From the Section Administrator
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- World Cancer Day
- Hepatitis A Outbreak and the Homeless
- Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll Grows to Eleven Hospitals
- Importance of Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis Vaccine: OB/GYN Spotlight
- HPV Trainings Available
- 2019 Immunization Schedules Now Available
- Immunization Update 2019: Vaccine Hesitancy and Immunology of Vaccines
- Current Vaccine Information Statements

IMMU-NEWS is a quarterly publication of the:
Immunization Section
Bureau of Epidemiology
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
Florida Department of Health | **FloridaHealth.gov**

Message From the Section Administrator

Robert M. Griffin

Welcome to the 2019 first quarter issue of IMMU-NEWS.

The new year is in full swing, and the Immunization Section is off to a running start! As we all enjoy a fresh new start and welcome the warmer weather of spring, it's a great time to get outdoors and spend time with family and friends and enjoy the Florida sunshine. We are all looking forward to much success in the year ahead.

This quarter marked a few national observances of note—the month of January was Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, and February 8 was World Cancer Day. Both observances promote and create awareness of the importance of vaccination as cancer prevention. *Prevention is key!*

In this issue, you will read about human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer prevention, Hepatitis A, the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll, and other immunization-related events and topics.

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

Shadrick Jefferson, OPS Operations Analyst, Florida SHOTS Helpdesk Team, was promoted to a Career Service Operations Analyst I with the Field Staff Team. Congratulations to Shadrick!

Choicey Brown has joined the Florida SHOTS Helpdesk Team as an OPS Operations Analyst. Choicey joins us from the Hepatitis Section.

Sharon Beloff has joined Area 8 as a Registered Nurse Specialist.

Vasela Groettum has joined Area 9 as an Operations Analyst I.

Sydonnie Vassel has joined Area 10 as a Registered Nurse Specialist.

Annet Tiven has joined Area 11 as a Registered Nurse Specialist.

Zhyrma Monzon-Canales has joined Area 12 as a Registered Nurse Specialist.

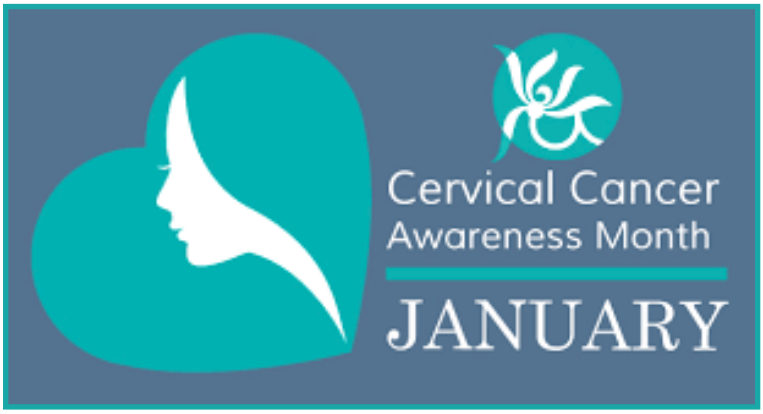
Welcome aboard Choicey, Sharon, Vasela, Sydonnie, Annet, and Zhyrma—we look forward to working with you!

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

Enjoy this issue, and visit us at **ImmunizeFlorida.org**!

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM) is observed annually during the month of January.



More than 13,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the U.S. each year, and more than 4,000 will die from it. It is one of the most preventable types of cancer due to the HPV vaccine and routine screening.

Cervical cancer tends to occur during midlife and is frequently diagnosed in women between the ages of 35 and 44. Fifteen percent of diagnoses are made in women over 65, and usually it is women who were not receiving regular screenings. It rarely affects women under the age of 20.

HPV is found in about 99 percent of cervical cancers. There are over 100 different types of HPV; most are considered low-risk and do not cause cervical cancer. More than 70 percent of cervical cancers can be attributed to HPV-16 and HPV-18.

HPV is now considered the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. Approximately 80 percent of women by the age of 50 will have been infected by some type of HPV. Most women do not develop cervical cancer from the HPV virus, and it usually resolves on its own within 2 years in 90 percent of cases.

Early cases of cervical cancer do not cause symptoms, which is why it is so important to have your regular screenings through Pap and HPV testing with your health care provider.

All women should begin cervical cancer screening at age 21.

Every three years women ages 21–29 should have a Pap test. If Pap is abnormal then they should be tested for HPV.

Every five years women ages 30–65 should have a Pap test and HPV test. This is the preferred testing approach, but it is acceptable to have a Pap test every three years.

Women over age 65 who have had routine screenings with normal results do not need to be screened for cervical cancer unless they were previously diagnosed with cervical cancer or pre-cancer. Then, they should be screened according to their doctors recommendations.

Women who have had a hysterectomy and have no history of cervical cancer or pre-cancer do not need to be screened.

Women who have had HPV vaccine should be screened according to their age group.

Women who are considered high-risk due to HIV infection, have received an organ transplant, or had exposure to the drug diethylstilbestrol (DES) should be screened more often and should talk to their doctor about what screening schedule they should follow.

It is no longer recommended to get a Pap test yearly as it takes much longer for cervical cancer to develop (10–20 years), and it could lead to procedures that are not needed. This is the American Cancer Society recommendation.

Early detection is key—make sure to do routine screenings!

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
- OB/GYN: Obstetrician/Gynecologist
- PDF: Portable Document Format
- SRAHEC: Suwannee River Area Health Education Center
- Tdap: Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis vaccine
- VFC: Vaccines for Children

World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day was founded by the Union for International Cancer Control to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration. February 4 has been designated as World Cancer Day, which aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by educating and raising awareness about cancer and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease. The World Cancer Day website, **www.worldcancerday.org/what-cancer**, has information and resources for health professionals, the public, the media, and organizations. In addition to providing information and excellent resources for cancer education, there are designated areas on the website for individuals and groups to share their stories and the activities in their communities related to prevention and treatment of cancer.

These are the Key Cancer Facts provided by World Cancer Day:

- 9.6 million people die from cancer every year.
- At least one-third of common cancers are preventable.
- Cancer is the second-leading cause of death worldwide.
- Seventy percent of cancer deaths occur in low-to-middle income countries.
- Up to 3.7 million lives could be saved each year by implementing resource appropriate strategies for prevention, early detection, and treatment.
- The total economic cost of cancer is estimated at $1.16 trillion annually.

Cancers in males caused by HPV are among the cancers that are preventable. The largest percentage of these cancers in males are caused by high-risk HPV; cancer of the rectum (92 percent), the penis (60 percent), and oropharyngeal cancers including the back of the throat and the base of the tongue and tonsils (70 percent).

Anogenital HPV infection is believed to be the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. An estimated 79 million persons are infected, and an estimated 14 million new infections occur every year with half of these in persons 15–24 years of age. About 80 percent of people having sexual contact are infected with HPV at some point in their lives. Many people “shed” the virus naturally without any consequence, but there is no way of predicting or knowing who sheds the virus. HPV is transmitted by direct contact, usually sexual, with an infected person, most frequently with sexual intercourse, but can occur following non-penetrating sexual activity.

Currently there is NO test for HPV in males.

The good news is that over 90 percent of cancers caused by HPV are preventable if a person receives the HPV vaccine before exposure to the virus.

The CDC recommends that boys (and girls) receive the HPV vaccine to protect against cancer-causing HPV infections.

Boys, like girls, should get two doses of the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12. The HPV vaccine series can be started as early as age 9 and should be finished before boys turn 13 years old.

Boys who are 15 or older, and have not started the HPV vaccine series, will need three shots given over six months.

Teen boys who did not start or finish the HPV vaccine series when they were younger should start the series as soon as possible.

HPV vaccine is recommended for young men through age 21. HPV vaccine is also recommended for the following people, if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger:

- Young men who have sex with men, including young men who identify as gay or bisexual or who intend to have sex with men through age 26
- Young adults who are transgender through age 26
- Young adults with certain immunocompromising conditions (including HIV) through age 26

There is a reluctance in some groups to vaccinate children with the HPV vaccine.

Below are a few resources to help providers inform and encourage parents to select the HPV vaccination for their children.

Adolescent Immunization Tookit: **www.immunizationmanagers.org/page/adolescents**

Adolescent Immunization Resource Guide: **www.immunizationmanagers.org/page/AdolGuide**

Think Your Teen is Social: **FloridaHealth.gov/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/immunization/publications/_documents/teens-social.pdf**

Talk to Teens About Vaccines: **FloridaHealth.gov/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/immunization/publications/_documents/talk-to-teens.pdf**

HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention for Boys, Too!: **www.cdc.gov/features/hpvvaccineboys/index.html**

Human Papilloma Virus: A Parents Guide to Preteen and Teen HPV Vaccination: **www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4250.pdf**

Hepatitis A Outbreak and the Homeless

In the February 15, 2019, issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention addressed recommendations on hepatitis A (hep A) vaccine for persons experiencing homelessness. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Hepatitis Vaccines Workgroup conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the ACIP October 24, 2018, recommendation that all persons aged 1 year and older experiencing homelessness be routinely immunized for hep A. Those considered to be experiencing homelessness include sheltered and unsheltered persons without stable living conditions, including those who stay with extended friends or family or in supervised facilities.

The cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Hepatitis Vaccine Workgroup included the review of scientific evidence that supports homelessness as a sufficient indicator for hep A vaccination. The number of individuals who contracted hep A from person-to-person contact increased substantially from the year 2017–2018. A majority of those infected were persons experiencing homelessness and/or engaging in drug use. The ACIP review takes the growing population of homeless persons as well as the number of those in that population who have contracted hep A into careful consideration. Homeless persons experience disparities in health such as shorter life expectancies, poor access to health care, and higher morbidity. Those who are experiencing homelessness are also less likely to practice good sanitization and hygiene measures and are more likely to be exposed to contaminated water and food—all of which are correlated to hepatitis A virus infection.

Studies have shown that hep A vaccination creates antibodies that can last more than 40 years, and there is evidence of one dose lasting up to eleven years. Taking all of this into account as well as the benefits of herd immunity, the ACIP Hepatitis Vaccine Workgroup concluded that even without completion of the hep A vaccine series, vaccination among those experiencing homelessness may be the best solution to the recent outbreaks in the U.S., thus making homelessness an indicator for hep A vaccination.

Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll Grows to Eleven Hospitals

On July 16, 2013, the Immunization Action Coalition 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.

The Birth Dose Honor Roll for Florida has grown from 4 to 11, all as a result of the consultation from the Clinical/Quality Improvement (CQI) Team RNs during their medical record reviews.

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

1. Baptist Medical Center Nassau, Fernandina Beach, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 93% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017 and 98% from 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018
2. Bayfront Health, Port Charlotte, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 96% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
3. Brandon Regional Hospital, Brandon, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 90% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
4. Cape Coral Hospital, Cape Coral, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 97% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
5. Florida Hospital Waterman, Tavares, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 92% from 5/22/2017 to 5/23/2018
6. HealthPark Medical Center, Fort Myers, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 95% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
7. Jackson Hospital, Marianna, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 98% from 9/1/2017 to 9/1/2018
8. Jackson North Medical Center, North Miami Beach, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 97% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
9. Jackson South Medical Center, Miami, Florida
   Reported a coverage rate of 100% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
10. Rockledge Regional Medical Center, Rockledge, Florida
    Reported a coverage rate of 95% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
11. Santa Rosa Medical Center, Milton, Florida
    Reported a coverage rate of 93% from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

The Immunization Section CQI RNs are so proud to finally have birthing hospital representation in Florida and will continue moving forward with adding more to the list!

Importance of Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis Vaccine: OB/GYN Spotlight

Did you know you can protect a newborn before birth? One of the most important things a newly pregnant woman can do is get vaccinated against pertussis, also known as the whooping cough. The Tdap vaccine is now recommended for pregnant women in the earliest part of the third trimester (27–36 weeks) by the CDC. When given prenatally, during the earliest part of the third trimester, protective antibodies are passed along to the infant. These antibodies help protect the infant from getting the whooping cough, which is a rapid cough followed by a high pitch "whoop" sound. This dangerous illness can cause apnea or a serious pause in breathing for newborns, restricting their oxygenation.

It is important for OB/GYNs to promote the Tdap vaccine prenatally for each pregnancy. During reviews for the *Hep B and Pertussis Prevention Study*, Sue George, MD, Santa Rosa Medical Group in Milton, consistently administered Tdap to her patients. It was noted through hospital documentation that she counseled her patients thoroughly and made a prominent place in the patient's prenatal records for when Tdap was given.

Protecting babies before they are born is something every pregnant mother can do! Make sure you talk to your doctor to give your baby a healthy start today!

Santa Rosa Hospital in Milton, Florida

HPV Trainings Available

There are three courses available, *Ask me About HPV, HPV and Cervical Cancer*, and *You are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention*. The trainings are sponsored by Suwannee River Area Health Education Center. These trainings will be accessible online through December 31, 2019. CEs and CMEs are available.

To register for *Ask Me About HPV*, please visit: **www.eventbrite.com/e/ask-me-about-hpv-tickets-51331239118**.

To register for *HPV and Cervical Cancer*, please visit: **www.eventbrite.com/e/hpv-and-cervical-cancer-tickets-51584005148**.

To register for *You are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention*, please visit: **www.eventbrite.com/e/you-are-the-key-to-hpv-cancer-prevention-tickets-50921566777**.

2019 Immunization Schedules Now Available

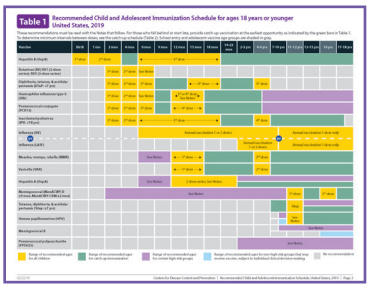
Schedules are available for health care professionals and the general public in parent-friendly formats. Download the new schedules today!

For health care professionals:

- **Recommended Immunization Schedule for Child and Adolescents, ages 18 years or younger, 2019**
- **Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults, ages 19 years or older, 2019**
- **Additional immunization-related resources for Health Care Providers**

For the general public in parent-friendly formats:

- **Immunization Schedule for Infants and Children, 2019**
- **Immunization Schedule for Preteens and Teens, 2019**
- **Additional immunization-related resources for Parents**
- **Additional immunization-related resources for Adults**



Immunization Update 2019: Vaccine Hesitancy and Immunology of Vaccines

On March 7, 2019, the Palm Beach County Childhood and Adult Immunization Coalition, Bethesda Hospital East, and the Florida Department of Health (DOH)-Palm Beach County partnered to sponsor its annual vaccine update program at Bethesda Health-Bethesda Hospital East in Boynton Beach. The program was entitled *Vaccine Hesitancy and Immunology of Vaccines* and was directed toward local health care providers, their staff, DOH staff, and hospital employees. Several vendor tables were set up at the event with representatives from several community partners: DOH-Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies, DOH-Palm Beach, DOH Community Immunizations Services, DOH Perinatal Hepatitis B Program, DOH Healthy Schools, Passport Health, and three pharmaceutical companies. All provided educational materials regarding their respective programs and products.

Dana Heinlein, RN, BSN, Community Health Nursing Consultant and Chairperson for the coalition, delivered the opening remarks and introduced the four panel speakers: Alina Alonso, MD, Director, DOH–Palm Beach; James Cobb, VFC Program Manager; Duclos Dessalines, MD, FAAP, Director, Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) Pediatric Services-Palm Beach County Health Care District; Kleper de Almeida, MD, Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine; and Karen Kluge, BSN, MS, APRN, FNP-C, Passport Health.

Jim Cobb kicked off the panel discussion with his informational talk describing the VFC program, funding, and accountability measures for participants. He also discussed the recent hepatitis A outbreak in the state and explained how the VFC program responds and allocates resources during emergencies.

Both Dr. Alonso and Dr. Dessalines spoke about the long-term positive impact of vaccines, religious exemptions, and how to address vaccine hesitancy with parents.

Dr. de Almeida spoke about how and why vaccines work, and Karen Kluge spoke briefly on travel vaccines.

Prior to each of the presentations, the audience was quizzed on their knowledge of each subject by having to answer several multiple choice questions. Each table held up a card representing their answer to the question. After each question and answer, the correct answer was given, along with a short discussion describing the rationale for each correct answer. Additionally, a question and answer period followed each of the presentations.

Once again, the annual program was a great success and a learning opportunity for everyone!

Margaret Duval and Martha Espinosa of Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies

Lisa Bagocius of Sanofi Pasteur

Speakers Panel

Debbie Kahn, RN, CQI Team, and Jim Cobb, VFC Program Manager

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/mailing-list.html.**