Immunize Georgia

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WHAT'S INSIDE

HPV Vaccination Coverage Data for Georgia

The latest HPV vaccination coverage estimates show that – while occurring at a slow pace – HPV vaccination is becoming more routine. Six out of 10 teen girls (63%) and five out of 10 teen boys (50%) in the United States have started the HPV vaccination series (i.e., received at least one dose of HPV vaccine), according to data from the 2015 National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen). While more girls are getting HPV vaccine compared to boys, the gap is beginning to narrow.

However, fewer teens are getting the HPV vaccine compared to the Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. About 8 out of 10 girls and boys have received the Tdap (86%) and meningococcal vaccines (81%). This difference highlights missed opportunities to give HPV vaccine during the same visit that other recommended vaccines are administered. Improving HPV vaccination rates will help save lives. A high national Tdap vaccination rate of 86% shows that it is possible to achieve high HPV vaccination coverage.

In 2015 Georgia experienced a decrease in HPV vaccination coverage in females. Uptake of the first HPV vaccine among adolescent females was 54.4% but we had a significant decrease in our second and third doses with only 38.7% receiving the second dose and 32.3% receiving the third dose. Our male HPV vaccination efforts show 51.0% for the first dose and 42.5% for the second dose. This was a significant increase, but we only reported 27.5% for the third dose.

To optimize protection of adolescents against vaccine-preventable diseases, including HPV-associated cancers, it is important for healthcare providers to consistently recommend and co-administer Tdap, MenACWY, and HPV vaccines at age 11–12 years.

The HPV Champion Providers initiative is a project of the Georgia Department of Public Health and we are asking for your input by completing a HPV survey to let us know how you are addressing HPV vaccination and concerns, and what tools or materials you need to promote HPV vaccination.

Please go to **www.immunizegeorgia.com** to complete the survey.

Sources:
National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — United States, 2015 Weekly / August 26, 2016 / 65(33);850–858

New Flu Information for 2016-2017

WHAT'S NEW THIS FLU SEASON?

- **Only injectable flu shots are recommended for use this season.** The nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or LAIV) should not be used during 2016-2017.

- **Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses.** There are many flu viruses and they are constantly changing. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually and updated to match circulating flu viruses. Flu vaccines protect against the three or four viruses that research suggests will be most common. For 2016-2017, three-component vaccines (trivalent) are recommended to contain:

  - A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus,
  - A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
  - B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage).

  Four component vaccines (quadrivalent) are recommended to include the same three viruses above, plus an additional B virus called B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage). Annual influenza immunization is indicated with either a trivalent or quadrivalent (no preference) inactivated vaccine.

- **The recommendations for vaccination of people with egg allergies have changed for 2016-2017.** People with egg allergies can receive any licensed, recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine and no longer have to be monitored for 30 minutes after receiving the vaccine. People who have severe egg allergies should be vaccinated in a medical setting and be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.

- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has licensed a new seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine containing adjuvant for adults 65 years of age and older.** An adjuvant is an ingredient added to a vaccine to create a stronger immune response to vaccination. The new flu vaccine, FLUAD™ was licensed in November 2015 and will be available during the 2016-2017 flu season. **http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2016-2017.htm**

See Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2016–17 Influenza Season. MMWR 2016. August 26, 2016 / 65(5); 1–54 for the full recommendations. **http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6505a1.htm**

The National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), a national awareness week focused on highlighting the importance of influenza vaccination, will be observed December 4-10, 2016.

College Students Don't Get Flu Shots and That's a Real Problem

In Georgia, students are skipping an easy step that will help them stay healthy: seasonal flu vaccines.

Every year, the flu spreads across college campuses nationwide. Close living quarters, shared restrooms and a lot of social activities make a college student more likely to catch the flu.

"It is important for the safety of our campus communities to work closely with our public health officials to eliminate preventable diseases," said Joyce Jones, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. "Thanks to our health educators for sharing information to our students in order to prevent the spread of the flu."

Public health experts have been trying to figure out how to persuade more students to participate — for their own sake and for the sake of their campus communities.

"As healthcare workers, we know the importance of immunizations for vaccine preventable diseases, like the flu," said Janet McGruder, Nurse Consultant of the Georgia Department of Public Health Immunization Program. "All too often healthy college age adults do not make preventive health measures a priority."

TAKE THE PLEDGE. JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

To date, all colleges that are part of the University System of Georgia have received their college toolkit and 13 colleges have already pledged to use the provided tools and share their successful efforts.

Are the colleges in your district on the list? Let's all join the College Flu and Vaccine Movement, get our colleges signed up and make Georgia's campuses some of the lowest flu rates in the country.

- Gordon State College
- Dalton State College
- Georgia College
- South GA State University
- University of West Georgia
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Georgia Southwestern University
- Darton State College
- Georgia State University
- Valdosta State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Zika Virus: A Practical Primer for Physicians

In April 2016, evidence confirming the link between Zika infection during pregnancy and severe birth outcomes including microcephaly was confirmed. In the U.S., the greatest concern is for pregnant women and their sexual partners who have traveled to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

As of Sept. 1, 2016, 671 women are being followed nationally in the registry; there have been 17 live births reported with birth defects and 5 pregnancy losses with birth defects. It is critical that pregnant women, or women who are planning to become pregnant, receive prevention education regarding travel and safe sex practices to avoid the serious outcomes associated with Zika virus infection during pregnancy.

To date, Florida is the only state to report locally acquired mosquito-borne Zika virus infections in the continental United States. However, Zika infections have been reported in almost 3000 travelers returning to the U.S. from countries where Zika virus transmission is active. The CDC maintains a webpage which includes maps and detailed information regarding affected areas at https://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html.

Zika virus infections have also been confirmed in 24 individuals who had sexual contact with an infected person who acquired the disease while traveling. Because the species of mosquitoes (Aedes spp.) that transmit Zika virus can be found in many parts of the U.S., including Georgia, there is a risk that virus imported into the U.S. by travelers will lead to local mosquito-borne transmission. It is imperative that potential infections in humans are identified quickly so that precautions to minimize exposure to local mosquitoes can be taken.

Astute clinicians are critical to recognition of Zika and other emerging diseases and form the cornerstone of all disease prevention and control efforts. Routine collection of recent travel history from every patient is imperative in this recognition. Keeping up with rapidly changing travel advisories about Zika-affected areas and diagnostic testing information amid clinical demands is challenging. DPH has recently established a new web tool, the Travel Clinical Assistant, which provides clinical information on travel-related diseases in near real-time for 231 countries, including all Zika-affected areas (http://dph.georgia.gov/TravelClinicalAssistant). In addition, to rapidly detect (and subsequently mitigate) local transmission of Zika,

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clinicians in areas at risk need to consider that some patients without travel to Zika-affected areas, such as patients with fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis, may also warrant Zika testing.

Healthcare providers evaluating symptomatic persons (male or female) and pregnant women (symptomatic or asymptomatic) with travel to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, a suspect case of suspect sexual transmission of Zika, or a suspect local mosquito-borne transmission should report the suspect case immediately to the Georgia DPH determine whether Zika testing is indicated and to facilitate appropriate specimen collection. All Zika testing requests must be approved by DPH Epidemiology at 404-657-2588 (during business hours) or 1-866-PUB-HLTH. The Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL) performs RT-PCR testing on serum, urine, CSF, and amniotic fluid as well as MAC-Elisa IgM testing on serum.

Since January 2016, the Georgia DPH has triaged about 1,600 inquiries from clinicians seeking approval for testing a patient for Zika infection. Although, as of September 12, 2016, more than 900 Georgia residents have been tested for Zika, only 80 travel-associated infections have been confirmed. In addition to facilitating testing for Zika virus, DPH works with clinicians and other partners to provide education about Zika virus prevention. Travelers returning from areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing should avoid mosquitoes for three weeks after their return regardless of whether or not they have symptoms. Additionally, travelers should be educated about potential sexual transmission of Zika virus and prevention. Current recommendations for the prevention of sexual transmission can be found on the CDC website at https://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/clinical-guidance/sexualtransmission.html

The DPH Zika Epidemiology Team is available Monday through Friday 8-5 pm at 404-657-2588 for any Zika-related questions and to triage testing requests/facilitate submission of samples to GPHL, or Clinicians may call 1-866-PUB-HLTH 24/7.

Sources:
PAHO alert 2015: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&Itemid=270&gid=30075
Frieden TR, Schuchat A, Petersen LR. Zika Virus 6 Months Later. JAMA. Published online August 08, 2016. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.11941.
CDC Zika website: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/
CDC Pregnancy Registry Case Count: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/pregwomen-uscases.html
Mlakar J, Korva M, Tul N, Popovic M, Poljsak-Prijatelj M, Mraz J, Kolenc M, Rus KR, Vesnaver TV, Vodusek VF, et al. Zika virus associated with microcephaly. N Engl J Med. 2016;374(10):951–8.

Do you know who Walt Orenstein, MD is?

Dr. Walter Orenstein is more than just a professor and Associate Director of the Emory Vaccine Center at Emory University. Aside from his academic and professional accomplishments, we wanted to get to know the real Dr. Walt Orenstein, so we asked him a few personal questions.

Q. Tell us a little bit about your family.

I have a wonderful wife and two great children. I've been married for almost 40 years and we are most fortunate to truly be happy together. I most enjoy spending time with my wife and traveling together. My children are married and both physicians. I guess I was not home enough to discourage them. Yet, I'm very proud of them and lucky to be their father.

Q. What are some of your hobbies outside of your profession?

I enjoy eating a variety of cuisines and trying new restaurants, especially when traveling. My favorite is hot, spicy food – the hotter the better. I'm also a news junky and spend time reading the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, listening to NPR in my car, and watching one of the 24 hour news stations while I am at home. I'm obsessed with exercise and try to work out on an elliptical machine each morning. And, my favorite hobby is being with my grandchildren and spoiling them. They tell me that they favor me because I am lenient.

Q. Who is your idol or hero?

I've had several heroes who have shaped my life. Lee Erde, my scoutmaster from Troop 77, Bronx, New York, was a surrogate father to me. I loved to go camping and hiking and honored to have become an Eagle Scout. Laurence Finberg, who was Chairman of Pediatrics, and my attending physician, during my pediatric clerkship in medical school inspired me to pursue pediatrics. Don Francis was my supervisor when I worked in smallpox in India. Don really changed my career direction to public health and CDC with a special focus on trying to eliminate measles in the United States. Alan Hinman, my boss for 13 years at the CDC, played a major role in my career advancement. Bill Foege really inspired me. His talk to my Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Class in 1974 about smallpox eradication led me to volunteer to go to India to work on Smallpox, which as noted above, led to a refocus of my career path from wanting to be a pediatric nephrologist to becoming a vaccinologist. There are many more and I am concerned I'm leaving some top people off. But I've been lucky to have so many great mentors.

Q. What advice would you give to your 20 year old self?

Be flexible and adapt. Take advantage of opportunities that come your way and be prepared to change based on those opportunities.

CDC Trainings

Immunization -You Call the Shots

This is an interactive, web-based immunization training course. It consists of a series of modules that discuss vaccine-preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use. Register and obtain CE credit.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html

HPV Vaccine: You Are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention

Provided in this presentation is up-to-date information on HPV infection/disease, HPV vaccine, and ways to successfully communicate with patients and their parents about HPV vaccination. Register and obtain CE credit.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/courses.html#key

Influenza Vaccination Recommendations, 2015-2016

This training presentation addresses information every vaccine provider should know about influenza, the various influenza vaccines, ACIP vaccine recommendations, storage and handling requirements, and administration considerations. Register and obtain CE credit.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/flu-recs/index.html

Webinar Series for Pink Book

This online series of 15 webinars provides an overview of the principles of vaccination, general recommendations, immunization strategies for providers, and specific information about vaccine-preventable diseases and the vaccines that prevent them. Register and obtain CE credit.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/webinar-epv/index.html

Immunization Encounter

This presentation addresses issues related to a routine immunization clinic encounter: patient intake and screening, vaccine administration, vaccine management, documentation, vaccine adverse events management and reporting, and resources for staff orientation and development. Register and obtain CE credit.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/encounter/index.html

Current Issues in Immunization Net Conferences (CIIN)

Immunization Net Conferences are live, 1-hour presentations scheduled 4 to 5 times per year. Specific topic(s) will be announced prior to each occurrence. Next conference is November 9, 2016. CE credits provided.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/index.html

School-Based Flu Clinics

Since 2010, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has worked closely with the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) and local public health departments to implement school-based flu clinics. School-based flu clinics are a great way to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive their flu shot. Even though DPH encourages parents to bring their children to private providers, pharmacies or health clinics to get a flu shot, School-based flu clinics are a low cost, easy alternative.

School-based flu clinics have helped increase flu vaccine coverage throughout the state and kept Georgia students healthy. In the U.S., 38 million school days are lost each year due to the influenza virus. Fortunately, the increased flu vaccine coverage has helped decrease the number of absences in Georgia schools.

Last year, school-based flu clinics were available at 651 schools across 15, out of 18, districts in Georgia.

Last year, 65,000 flu vaccines were administered through school-based flu clinics.

School-based flu clinics are typically offered early September through late March. Specific dates and times vary for each school. Also, clinic availability varies by district and by the amount of resources they have; some clinics offer flu vaccines only to students, while others have the resources to offer vaccines to parents, staff and others in the community.

For more information on school-based flu clinics, contact **Kaleisha Biggs, Special Projects Coordinator** at **404-656-9903** or **Kaleisha.Biggs@dph.ga.gov.**

Immunize Georgia Champions for Immunization

The Georgia Department of Public Health hosted the 23rd annual Immunize Georgia conference at the Wyndham Peachtree Hotel and Conference Center on September 9, 2016 which invited private and public healthcare practitioners to learn the latest news and best practices in immunization services, with the goal of working to raise immunization rates in Georgia.

Clay Coleman Excellence in Customer Service Award

Clay Coleman presented his 2016 namesake award to **Noreen Dahill**, an immunization program consultant at DPH. The Clay Coleman Excellence in Customer Service Award honors staff members who demonstrate passion, enthusiasm and innovation in the provision of services, expertise or technical assistance to any immunization stakeholder, including the public. Dahill observed that WellStar offices were below national and Georgia NIS rates for HPV. Instead of working with each office individually to increase rates, she chose to work with the health system as a whole. Dahill shows exemplary immunization customer service that goes above and beyond the call of duty with the ultimate goal of immunizing Georgia.

Walt Orenstein Champions for Immunization Award

The 2016 Walt Orenstein Champions for Immunization Award, presented by Dr. Walt Orenstein, honors individuals, agencies or coalitions who demonstrate excellence in providing immunization care.

Mike Chaney, Immunization Coordinator at Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, was recognized for his dedication of more than 40 years in the Georgia Immunization field. In his various roles over the years, Chaney has created strong physician, public health and private sector relationships that have improved access to immunizations for children and families in Georgia. Chaney continues to serve the community by assisting the physicians who care for them around vaccine supply, storage, and education.

The Thomas County Health Department was recognized for its staff's commitment to community outreach and providing guidance for individuals who may have questions about immunizations. Last year over 1,470 students and 200 plus faculty and staff were immunized throughout the city and county schools. By hosting programs at local schools, businesses and organizations, the department brings awareness to the importance of getting vaccinated.

Dr. Lora Denton was recognized for her long-standing commitment to advancing education. She has been educating internal medicine residents and medical students on the importance of patient immunization for years. In her position as the Coordinator of the Internal Medicine Residency Ambulatory Clinic of Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia, Dr. Denton is focused on ensuring that every patient enrolled in the clinic is offered the proper set of immunizations. By teaching future providers the importance of immunization, she helps expand immunization awareness, and consequently contributes to the good health of many Georgians.

Jodi Snow has demonstrated that she is an immunization champion through her dedication to increasing the quality of visits her patients receive and the efficiency of time for the parent, child and provider. In her current position, she identified many missed opportunities to ensure patients were current on wellness exams. She helped develop and implement a program that decreased the number of missed opportunities for vaccines from 21% in 2013 to just 4% in 2016 at WellStar Kennestone Pediatrics.

Congratulations to all the recipients from this year's conference. We thank you for your continued efforts to protect and immunize Georgia.

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