Each year, NIIW highlights the importance of protecting infants and young children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials must work together to help protect the entire community. Trust in vaccines is built through millions of conversations between parents, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and community members.

COVID-19 has caused many disruptions in families’ lives, and in some cases, it has meant that children have missed or delayed their wellness checkups and vaccination, which are a critical part of ensuring children stay healthy.

According to CDC research, parents consistently identify healthcare professionals as their most trusted source of health and immunization information. Research also shows that many parents make vaccine decisions before their babies are even born. Your valued recommendation for children to get vaccinated on-time is especially important to decrease outbreaks of preventable diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

See some helpful resources below:
- Learn simple tips for Talking with Parents about Vaccines for Infants
- Build a culture of immunization in your organization: 10 Ways to Create a Culture of Immunization Within Your Pediatric Practice

In mid-April, view the Immunizations Program Homepage for a list of NIIW events happening across Connecticut!

View the updated CVP Blue Folder!

The Blue Folder contains all documents associated with being an immunization provider through the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP).
First Annual Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW) is April 4-8

Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW) was launched this year by Unity Consortium to urge healthcare providers and parents to be sure adolescents receive all recommended immunizations. This first annual observance will be held April 4–8.

View the Unity Partner Toolkits website (password: unity) to help amplify messages to healthcare providers, parents, adolescents and young adults. Use these resources to help improve adolescent immunization coverage within your practice.

Visit Unity’s AIAW campaign page for social media-ready materials you can use to draw attention to the importance of improving adolescent immunization coverage.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases Update

As COVID-19 restrictions decrease and people begin to come together again, the Immunization Program wants to remind our frontline providers that cases of vaccine preventable disease (VPD), while rare, still occur. Missed vaccination opportunities during the pandemic provide opportunities for outbreaks of VPDs in the community. These diseases are reportable to the Department of Public Health and our staff are always available to answer questions, recommend testing if necessary, and provide guidance.

Keep an eye out in future communications for spotlights on common VPDs, their signs and symptoms, testing, and prevention recommendations!

Are Your Patients Up-to-Date on Meningococcal Vaccines?

- **You’re Not Done If You Give Just One** supports a national campaign produced by Immunize.org and Sanofi Pasteur to improve protection from disease caused by meningococcal serogroups A, C, W, and Y. It offers information for families and resources for providers to boost on-time delivery of both doses of the MenACWY vaccine series.
- If your patient is at high risk for serogroup B meningococcal disease, they should also receive two doses of MenB vaccine.
- View the Vaccines Supplied By CT CVP to see which vaccines are available to order through the Connecticut Vaccine Program.

Employee Spotlight

We’d like to congratulate two DPH Immunization Program staff who have recently retired from state service – Sharon Dunning, Adult Immunization Coordinator and Claudia Soprano, Health Program Assistant.

We wish them both the best in their retirement!

If you worked closely with Sharon or Claudia and are not sure who to reach out to now, you can submit a helpdesk ticket or email us at dph.immunizations@ct.gov.

Congratulations!
Data Quality (DQ) Corner

COVID-19 Vaccine Data Entry Tips (CT WiZ and EHRs)
In CT WiZ, when you see an Invalid Dose, please review if you entered the correct vaccination information.

- Entering the wrong COVID-19 vaccination product information into CT WiZ or your EHR can sometimes mark the dose as ‘invalid’ depending on the patient’s age, dose interval or invalid vaccine information. For example:
  - Pfizer 5-11 entered on an adult record
  - Expired lot number
- Note: Invalid COVID-19 dose(s) do not appear on the ‘COVID-19 Vaccination Record,’ but they do appear on the ‘Full Immunization Record’ in CT WiZ.

Helpful Links for COVID-19 Vaccines Supplied
- ‘Vaccines Supplied by Connecticut Vaccine Program’ includes the vaccine, brand name and packaging, NDC, manufacturer, CVX, CT WiZ drop down selections for vaccines supplied by CVP/CoVP.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Related Codes includes the manufacturer, FDA authorizations, proprietary name, product description, NDCs, UoU presentation, CVX code and long and short description for COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Related Codes includes the CVX code, CVX long and short description, CVX note and status, MVX code and manufacturer, product tradename(s) for COVID-19 vaccines outside the U.S.

Helpful Links for COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Lookups
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date Report is available to public health, healthcare, and pharmacy organizations located within the U.S. for vaccine administration, inventory, and reporting purposes. Access to this report is strictly managed by registration only. Registration will not be granted for personal use or to confirm validity of vaccination. Registration requests will be denied for the following users: using personal emails (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo, MSN), seeking the report to verify vaccinations, located outside of the U.S. jurisdiction and territories.
- Click here for training on 'How to Make Expiration Date Adjustments in CT WiZ' found on our CVP Vaccine Inventory Management page.

In Case You Missed It
- View the updated CDC Immunization Schedules.
- View the recording of the 3/2/22 Current Issues in Immunization Webinar regarding the updates to the 2022 child/adolescent and adult immunization schedules!
- On February 4, CDC issued two Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) for:
  - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine – The new interim VIS should be provided with any pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, PCV15, and PCV20) and outlines new recommendations for adults
  - Recombinant zoster (shingles) vaccine – The updated VIS incorporates the expanded indications for this vaccine for adults aged 19 years or older who are immunocompromised because of disease or treatment for a disease
- Vaccine Information You Need was launched by Immunize.org in partnership with CDC to help inform the public. This website provides hundreds of valuable resources, including personal testimonies of suffering and loss due to vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccine-related videos and public service announcements, and educational materials from trusted organizations.
- 65+ Flu Defense, produced by Immunize.org and Seqirus, is a website offering tools and resources to help protect patients 65 and older, all of whom are at greater risk of influenza complications.