



To achieve its goal of preventing disease, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases, the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Immunization Program:

- ◆ Provides vaccine to immunization providers throughout the State;
- ◆ Provides education for medical personnel and the general public;
- ◆ Works with providers using the immunization registry to assure that all children in their practices are fully immunized;
- ◆ Assures that children who are in day care, Head Start, and school are adequately immunized;
- ◆ Conducts surveillance to evaluate the impact of vaccination efforts and to identify groups that are at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) award is to be presented during National Infant Immunization Week to recognize outstanding efforts to promote childhood vaccination in our state.

Hartford – The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Ms. Geri Rodda is our Childhood Immunization Champion in recognition of her outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization in Connecticut. For almost 15 years as a community health nurse, Geri has been an advocate, author, mentor and leader in the promotion of childhood immunizations.



Each year, in connection with National Infant Immunization Week, the CDC Foundation and the CDC will honor health professionals and community leaders, up to one immunization *Champion* from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. These awards acknowledge exemplary individuals who go above and beyond to promote or foster immunizations among children 0–2 years old in their communities.

Geri will be honored at a program to be held in her community of New Milford. Pictures from the event will be published in the next edition of VaxFacts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DPH Honors Childhood Immunization Champion	Page 1
National Infant Immunization Week Activities	Page 2, 3
VTrcks - On-line Vaccine Ordering	Page 4
Regional VTrcks Staff & Epidemiologists	Page 4
Ask The Experts	Page 4, 5
Revised CT Immunization Program Website	Page 5
Focus On: Vaccine Documentation	Page 5
Achieving High Immunization Rates	Page 6
CIRTS Updates/New Staff	Page 7
VFC Program 20th Anniversary	Page 8
MMWR Report - Requiring Flu Vaccinations for Children	Page 8
Measles Advisory in CT/2014 Immunization Schedules	Page 9



Immunization Program

Epidemiologists:

Region 1 (western CT)

Paul Sookram
860-509-7835

Region 2 (New Haven area)

Dan Wurm
860-509-7811

Region 3 (eastern CT)

Sharon Dunning
860-509-7757

Region 4 (Hartford area)

Nicholanna Prince
860-509-8187

Local IAP

Coordinators:

Bridgeport

Joan Lane
203-372-5503

Danbury

Irene Litwak
203-730-5240

Hartford

Tish Ricks Lopez
860-547-1426 x7048

Naugatuck Valley

Elizabeth Green
203-881-3255

New Britain

Vacant - Call
860-509-8060

New Haven

Jennifer Hall
203-946-7097

Norwalk

Pam Bates
203-854-7728

Stamford

Cynthia Vera
203-977-5098

Torrington

Sue Sawula
860-489-0436 X314

Waterbury

Randy York
203-346-3907

West Haven

Christine DePierro
203-937-3660 X 2045

Other areas

Summer Payne
860-509-7241



National Infant Immunization Week

**IMMUNIZATION.
POWER TO PROTECT.**

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to improve the health of children two years old or younger. Since 1994, local and state health departments, national immunization partners, health care professionals, community leaders from across the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have worked together through NIIW to highlight the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children, and to call attention to immunization achievements. This year NIIW runs from April 26 — May 3, 2014. Each year, our Immunization Action Plan Coordinators create and support some wonderful events to honor NIIW. (Some CT events run outside of this week due to site availability)

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 23 New Britain Rock Cats “Immunization Records Night” The New Britain IAP Coordinator & the New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Team have partnered to promote well child health. Parents who bring their child’s immunization record to the stadium can have their child’s record reviewed and receive a free child’s ticket to the game (with each adult ticket purchased). Dr. John Trouern-Trend, a local pediatrician, will throw out the first pitch in honor of the event. An information table will be set up with educational materials for parents and caregivers. Gates open at 5:35 p.m./Game starts at 6:35 p.m. New Britain Stadium, 230 Karbonic Way, New Britain, CT 06051 Contact: Ramona Anderson **(860) 509-8060**

Thursday, April 24 FASHION FOR SHOTS The Hartford Immunization Program will host a “fashion show” featuring children sporting different vaccines while their parent describes what the vaccine protects against. Question and answer session & door prizes. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free event! City of Hartford Health and Human Services, Burgdorf building lobby, 131 Coventry Street, Hartford, CT 06103 Contact: Tish Ricks-Lopez **(860) 757-4807** or Cristina Rodriguez **(860) 757-4817**

Thursday, April 24 Welcome Kindergarteners & Immunization Educational Table The New Haven IAP Coordinator will be handing out Kindergarten Registration Forms and information on the immunizations needed for kindergarten entry. Also immunization material will be handed out and free give-a-ways will be available. 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m. New Haven Health Department, 54 Meadow Street - 1st Floor, New Haven, CT Contact: Jennifer Hall **(203) 946-7257**

Friday, April 25 NIIW at WIC The West Haven IAP Coordinator will host an informational table & be available to discuss any questions or concerns parents in the WIC program have about Immunizations and their child. Educational material for parents as well as diaper bags filled with goodies for parents with newborns will be given out! Bring your child's immunization history and the IAP Coordinator can tell you which shots your child should be receiving at their next wellness visit. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. West Haven City Hall WIC Office (basement), 355 West Main Street, West Haven, CT 06516 Contact: Christine DePierro-Gacek (203) 937-3660 X2045



Monday, April 28 Celebrate NIIW Come celebrate our children's health thanks to vaccines. The Stamford Immunization Program will be on hand to disseminate information and giveaways about immunization and will also play a video about CIRTS. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Stamford Government Center lobby, 888 Washington Blvd., Stamford, CT 06904 Contact: Cinthia Vera **(203) 977-5098**

Monday, April 28 & Friday May 2 CIRTS/Immunization Record Check Attendees can stop by the lobby outside of the WIC office at the Norwalk Health Dept. at any time throughout the day to receive information regarding CIRTS, childhood vaccines, vaccine safety and the whooping cough vaccine. Free event! More information can be found on the Norwalk Health Dept.'s Facebook page or website: www.norwalkct.org/health. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Norwalk Health Dept., 137 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06855 Contact: Pam Bates **(203) 854-7728**

Tuesday, April 29 "Keeping Your Baby Healthy through Vaccines" Information about childhood vaccines and the CIRTS program will be provided to moms and dads in the WIC waiting rooms. Educational information and fun items for children, plus refreshments. Open to Bridgeport WIC clients. Free in 2 WIC Office locations: Optimus Health Care, 1450 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport 9:00-11:00 a.m. & also at Southwest Community Health Center, 1020 Fairfield Ave. Bridgeport 2:00-4:00 p.m. Contact: Joan Lane **(203) 372-5503 ext. 15**

Tuesday, April 29 Baby Rhyme Time Infants and non-walkers will enjoy this fun one-on-one time with their caregiver. The Naugatuck Valley Immunization Program will be there to discuss immunizations with participants and provide immunization information and giveaways for parents and children. Library staff will do traditional and new nursery rhymes and songs, many with hand play or action. Then stay awhile for some free play and socialization for the kids, and chit-chat for the adults. Free event! Walk-ins welcome. 10:30-11:00 a.m. Plumb Memorial Library, Huntington Branch, 41 Church St., Huntington, CT 06484 <http://sheltonlibrarysystem.org/> For more information, call the branch: **(203) 926-0111**

Tues-Thurs, Apr. 29-May 1 Waterbury WIC Immunization Awareness Event The Waterbury IAP coordinator will be available to discuss immunization issues and review records. Activities include story-telling and hand-washing instruction. Free giveaways include baby bibs bearing the immunization schedule & colorful brochures with helpful information. Healthy snacks will be provided by the Positive Parenting Program. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Activities on each day (Informational tables will be open during WIC hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00pm.) Waterbury Health Department, One Jefferson Square, Waterbury, CT 06706 Contact: Randy York **(203) 346-3907**

Wednesday, April 30 Baby & Me Story Hour Infants (birth-12 months old) along with a caregiver are invited to this lap-sit program which introduces our youngest patrons to the library and books through simple songs and rhymes, movement, board books, and interaction with their caregiver. Following the program, a play time will be held which gives babies and their caretakers an opportunity to socialize. The Naugatuck Valley Immunization Program will be there to discuss immunizations with participants and provide immunization information and giveaways for parents and children. Free event - Pre-registration is required. Derby Public Library, 313 Elizabeth St., Derby, CT 06418 Contact: Sue Sherman, Children's Librarian **(203) 736-1482**

Thursday, May 1 "A Celebration for Families and New Babies" The Weston Women's League and Family and Children's Agency (FCA) of Norwalk will be hosting a celebration for families and new babies enrolled in the agency's programs (Healthy Start, Mom's Project, Nurturing Families Network-Home Visits & Nurturing Families Network- Connections) . The event is free of charge for FCA clients. The Norwalk Immunization Action Plan staff will give a bilingual-Spanish presentation to the attendees on the importance and schedule of immunization, the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) and share tips on how to keep children up-to-date with their vaccinations. The participants will receive gift bags filled with immunization and CIRTS brochures, parent-held immunization record booklets, and baby gift items imprinted with the Norwalk Immunization Program's contact information. 10:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Norwalk City Hall Community Room, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06855 Contact: Pam Bates **(203) 854-7728**

Friday, May 2 "Take Care, Teddy Bear" Story time Kathie Rocco, Danbury IAP Outreach Coordinator, will read a story about visiting the Doctor and getting shots. Children can give a "shot" to their own stuffed bear and do a themed craft. Information on vaccination will be provided to parents with a take-home goody bag for the children. Parents and Children Ages 3+ are invited to attend. Free event - Pre-registration is required: **(203) 797-4528** 10:15 – 11:00a.m. Danbury Public Library – Kid Zone, 170 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810 For more information visit: <http://www.danburylibrary.org/content/227/default.aspx> or Kathie Rocco **(203) 730-5224**

Saturday, May 3 Griffin Hospital's Childbirth Center Baby Fair Join us for a fun day featuring over 30 exhibitors including door prizes and tours of the Childbirth Center throughout the day. New and expecting parents can register by calling **203-732-7595**. Attendees who preregister will be entered into a free drawing but walk-ins are welcome. The Valley's Immunization Coordinator, Elizabeth Green will be on hand with immunization information and giveaways. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Griffin Hospital, 130 Division St, Derby 06418 Contact: Elizabeth Green: (203) 881-3255 for more information on immunizations



ASK THE EXPERTS



VaxFacts

Volume 14 Spring 2014

VTckS - On-line Vaccine Ordering and Tracking System Update

In July 2013 the Connecticut Vaccine Program queried providers to gauge interest in training for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention’s (CDC) vaccine order and management tracking system called VTckS. The Connecticut Vaccine Program has been using VTckS since November 2012 to enter and manage all provider orders. Providers trained on VTckS can:

- ◆ Place vaccine requests directly into VTckS;
- ◆ Track vaccine requests from the time they are placed until the time vaccines are delivered;
- ◆ Place vaccine returns;
- ◆ Submit inventory and doses administered data.

VTckS can only be accessed through a Secure Data Network. The process requires each new user to pass through several security layers to gain access to the VTckS application. In each office, the clinician who is authorized to sign the yearly *Provider Agreement* will need to identify office staff that they would like to have access to VTckS on behalf of their practice.

If you would like more information on VTckS or would like to start the process to sign up for training, please contact Claudia Soprano at (860) 509-7712 or e-mail her at claudia.soprano@ct.gov.

Regional VTckS Staff & Field Epidemiologists

The Immunization Program divides the state of Connecticut into 4 regions, each with an assigned field epidemiologist and vaccine customer service/VTckS representative. Efforts are underway to offer VTckS training to providers for direct on-line order entry. Contact VTckS staff when you need assistance with vaccine ordering, expiring vaccine, vaccine delivery problems, etc. Contact your regional field epidemiologist for assistance with site visits, vaccine preventable disease outbreaks and education. If you are unsure which region you are in, please call the main Immunization Program number at 860-509-7929.

	<u>VTckS Staff</u>	<u>Epidemiologists</u>
Region 1	Maria Heinz	Paul Sookrum
Region 2	Loretta Rivera	Dan Wurm
Region 3	Eileen Higgins	Sharon Dunning
Region 4	Claudia Soprano	Nicholanna Prince

As soon as a provider enrolls in the CVP, vaccine can be ordered. The vaccine order form is due on or before the first business day of each month. Instructions for completing the form, as well as a list of state supplied vaccines and a vaccine discrepancy form, are available online at the [CVP—Information For Providers](#) page of our website.

Q *What is the recommended schedule for administering HPV vaccine?*

A Both HPV vaccines should be administered in a 3-dose schedule, with the second dose administered 1 to 2 months after the first dose and the third dose 6 months after the first dose. The minimum interval between the first and second doses of vaccine is 4 weeks. The minimum interval between the second and third doses of vaccine is 12 weeks. The minimum interval between the first and third doses is 24 weeks.

Q *If a dose of HPV vaccine is significantly delayed, do I need to start the series over?*

A No, do not restart the series. Just pick up where the patient left off and complete the series.

Q *To accelerate completion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series, can doses be given at 0, 1, and 4 months?*

A No, there is no accelerated schedule for completing the HPV vaccine series. You should follow the recommended schedule of 0, 1-2, and 6 months.

Q *How late in the season can I vaccinate my patients with influenza vaccine?*

A Peak influenza activity does not generally occur until February. Providers are encouraged to continue vaccinating patients throughout the influenza season, including into the spring months (for example, through May), as long as they have vaccine in the refrigerator and unvaccinated patients in their office.

Q *Why do people who received influenza vaccine in one year still need to get vaccinated in the next year when the viruses haven't changed?*

A Although the strains may sometimes be the same as in the previous year's vaccine, you should NOT use the previous season's vaccine. Most influenza vaccine distributed in the northern hemisphere expires on June 30; expired vaccine should NEVER be administered. Secondly, antibody titers achieved from the previous year's vaccination may wane and should be boosted with a dose of the current year's vaccine.

Q *How should LAIV and IIV be stored?*

A Both the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) and the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should be refrigerated at temperatures between 35°F (2°C) and 46°F (8°C).

The Recently Revised CT Immunization Program Website

Our front page to the DPH Immunization website has been re-designed to make finding information easier. The new format has a two column table with “featured links” that are similar to other ct.gov web pages. The left side contains public information such as “Me and My Family”, and the right side contains information for health care providers. Each link has a brief description of what lies under each heading. Visit our site! <http://www.ct.gov/dph/immunizations>

Focus On: Vaccine Documentation

All vaccines administered should be fully documented in the patient's permanent medical record. Healthcare providers who administer vaccines covered by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act are required to ensure that the permanent medical record of the recipient indicates the:

- 1) date of administration
- 2) vaccine manufacturer
- 3) vaccine lot number
- 4) name and title of the person who administered the vaccine and the address of the clinic or facility where the permanent record will reside
- 5) vaccine information statement (VIS)
 - A. date printed on the VIS
 - B. date VIS given to patient or parent/guardian

Best practice documentation guidelines for medications also include the vaccine type (for a list of U.S. vaccine abbreviations visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/vac-abbrev.htm>), route, dosage, and anatomic site where the vaccine was administered. Accurate documentation can help prevent administration errors and curtail the administration of excess vaccine doses. Providers should document in the patient's medical record any episodes of adverse events after vaccination and any serologic test results related to vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., those for rubella screening and antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen). Participation in immunization information systems is encouraged. (See additional documentation resources at <http://www.immunize.org/handouts/document-vaccines.asp>).

The patient or parent/guardian should be provided with an immunization record that includes the vaccines administered and the dates of administration. It is also important to document when parents refuse vaccines. The American Academy of Pediatrics and other organizations have developed forms to document when vaccines are refused. (See “Documenting Parental Refusal to Have Their Children Vaccinated” at <http://www.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/pdf/RefusaltoVaccinate.pdf>).

Recipe for success

Immunization Action Plan Coordinators and Immunization Program staff delivered certificates and plaques to those providers who had achieved high immunization coverage in their 2 year old patients. Providers were asked how they managed to achieve such high immunization levels. Here are some of the secrets to their success:



Community Health Center of Danbury staff were overjoyed to receive a well-earned award certificate for their 2009 immunization rates. They made great strides with their up-to-date and on-time rate! Kudos on your achievement! Left to right: Monte Wagner, APRN, MPH Medical Director for Fairfield County, Lucy Golding, RN, Nurse Manager of Fairfield County, Bozena Roberts, RN, Michelle Kusnir, RN

- Set up the next appointment before the patient leaves the office.
- Make reminder calls the day before the appointment.
- At every opportunity (including sick visits) look at the child's shot record to make sure the child is up-to-date.
- Educate parents about the importance of immunization.
- Post the immunization schedule in a place where all staff can see it.
- Do the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System compliancy report right away.

The Extra Step

School Based Health Centers and other pediatric providers share common goals for children in our communities. One of these goals is to protect our children from vaccine preventable diseases. Today, parents and children have busy lives with school, camp, sports and family obligations. Amongst all this haste, I have noticed that children are getting 'over-vaccinated', or getting the same shot twice. As **The Extra Step** I reach out to the School Based Health Centers and other pediatric providers to ensure that communication between families and providers are part of our process when vaccinating our children. If we don't have the child's immunization history, we **call their previous provider before vaccinating**. We also call Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) at **860-509-7929**. If the child is enrolled in the immunization registry, CIRTS staff can fax the child's immunization history right away. We can even call CIRTS while the child is in the waiting room. This extra step can prevent under and over-vaccination of our children in our communities. *(by Sonia Stavens LPN, East Lyme Pediatric)*

Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) Update

Connecticut Ranked 4th in the Nation!

Thanks to all of you for your continued hard work in maintaining such high immunization coverage levels!

The CDC's 2012 National Immunization Survey (NIS) results are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm>. The NIS is a large, on-going survey of immunization coverage among U.S. pre-school children 19 through 35 months of age; children in the 2012 NIS were born during January 2009–May 2011.

NIS Rates for 4 DTaP¹, 3 polio, 1 MMR², 3 HepB³, 3 Hib⁴, 1 VAR⁵, 4 PCV⁶

- US: **68%** up-to-date (same as last year)
- Hawaii: **80%** (ranked 1st; reached the national Healthy People 2020 Goal)
- CT: **77%** (ranked 4th; up 2% from last year)

For children born in 2009, the CIRTS rate for 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hep B, 3 Hib, 1 VAR, 4 PCV was **79%** (CIRTS and NIS data are comparable, however CIRTS includes all children born in CT who are enrolled, and the NIS is a much smaller sample of CT children.)

What are some of the benefits of coming online with CIRTS?

- Look-up and print official immunization histories;
- View due and overdue vaccines;
- Enter monthly compliancy reports instead of copying and mailing records;
- Run Reminder/Recall reports, lists, labels and letters.

How can a pediatric practice come online with CIRTS?

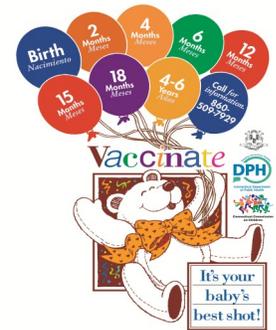
Contact DPH.CIRTS@ct.gov or Nancy Sharova at 860-509-7912. Please sign the Statement of Confidentiality found at: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=388412> and fax to 860-509-8370. A username and password will be assigned and training will be scheduled at your convenience.

Electronic Health Record (EHR) Project Update

CIRTS is not yet ready to accept electronic reporting from EHRs, however, pediatric practices may download the [CIRTS Local Implementation Guide for HL7 2.5.1 Immunization Messaging](#) for their vendor to prepare their EHR Systems to report electronically to CIRTS. Additionally, DPH has posted the "Exceptions Letter from DPH for Public Health Reporting for Meaningful Use 1-30-2014" on our website at: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/hite/drmullenupdated_letter.pdf.



We'd like to welcome Rosey Rivera, the new Bridgeport Outreach worker to the team! If you need assistance with immunization records or outreach on children in your Bridgeport practice, contact Rosey at rivera@swctahec.org or 203-372-5503. We'd also like to welcome Summer Payne as the new Immunization Coordinator for CIRTS. Summer will be based at CT DPH. Her responsibilities include outreach for families enrolled in the CIRTS program and working with medical providers in Connecticut. She is looking forward to working with you to improve immunization outreach efforts for the state. Please contact Summer if you need assistance obtaining CIRTS records or outreach with families: summer.payne@ct.gov or 860-509-7503.



1 diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis; 2 measles, mumps, and rubella; 3 hepatitis B; 4 *Haemophilus influenzae* type b; 5 varicella; 6 pneumococcal conjugate

CDC Celebrates 20th Anniversary of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program!

In 1989–1991, a **measles epidemic in the U.S.** resulted in tens of thousands of cases of measles and hundreds of deaths. Upon investigation, CDC found that more than half of the children who had measles had not been immunized, even though many of them had seen a health care provider. In response to that measles epidemic, Congress enacted the VFC Program in which the CDC distributes **FREE vaccines** to enrolled providers. This epidemic also led to funding for immunization registries.



Today, > 44,000 doctors are enrolled in the VFC Program nationwide. The VFC Program is one of our most successful public-private partnerships. It moved the responsibility for vaccinations from public health departments to public and private medical practices in support of the **“medical home”** concept. By receiving their vaccines in the medical home where they receive their other health services, the **continuity of care for children in our country has improved.**

Additionally, due to budget cuts back in 1985, the national survey was cancelled so we didn't know what the rates were during that outbreak. Thus, the NIS was born, since we were required to monitor coverage.

Today, we are seeing local measles outbreaks and instead of missed opportunities, they are primarily related to vaccine refusal. The good news is that the majority of children are vaccinated; less than 1% received no vaccines at all. However, nationally DTaP and PCV in the 2nd year have lower rates than we prefer and we are also seeing that children in poverty have lower rates for vaccinating in the 2nd year and for newer vaccines. (In CT our DTaP and PCV rates are higher than the US rate.) For more information, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/2013/dpk-20thanniversary-vaccines.html>.

RECENT Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (March 7, 2014): "Impact of Requiring Influenza Vaccination for Children in Licensed Child Care or Preschool Programs - Connecticut, 2012-13 Influenza Season"

"...In September 2010, Connecticut became the second U.S. state (after New Jersey) to implement regulations requiring that all children aged 6-59 months receive at least 1 dose of influenza vaccine each year to attend a licensed child care program...After the regulation took effect, vaccination rates among Connecticut children aged 6–59 months increased from 67.8% during the 2009–10 influenza season to 84.1% during the 2012–13 season. During the 2012–13 influenza season, among all 11 EIP surveillance sites, Connecticut had the greatest percentage decrease (12%) in the influenza-associated hospitalization rate from 2007–08 among children aged ≤4 years...Requiring vaccination for child care admission might have helped to increase vaccination rates in Connecticut and reduced serious morbidity from influenza." The report was written by James L. Hadler, MD, Kimberly Yousey-Hindes, MPH, Kathy Kudish, DVM, Erin D. Kennedy, DVM, Vincent Sacco, MS, and Matthew L. Cartter, MD. Read the entire report at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6309a1.htm?s_cid=mm6309a1_e.

Measles Advisory in Connecticut

Early this year two measles cases were confirmed in Connecticut, with additional cases ongoing in bordering states. It is important to consider measles as a possible diagnosis when a patient presents with a **febrile** rash illness.

- Have a high index of suspicion in patients who present with a morbilliform rash **with fever still present at the time of rash onset** AND cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis. The characteristic measles rash is classically described as a generalized, maculopapular, erythematous rash that begins several days after the fever starts. It starts on the head and neck before spreading to cover most of the body, often causing itching. The measles rash appears two to four days after the initial symptoms and lasts for up to eight days. The rash is said to "stain", changing color from red to dark brown, before disappearing. Koplik's spots seen inside the mouth are pathognomonic (diagnostic) for measles, but are not often seen because they are transient and may disappear within a day of arising.
- The average incubation period of measles (from contact with a case until onset of rash) is 14 days, with a range of 7–21 days.
- Cases are considered infectious from 4 days before rash onset through 4 days after.
- All suspected measles cases must be reported to the DPH Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929. All requests for testing from the DPH Laboratory must be reported and approved by the Immunization Program.

Children or adults born since 1957 who do not have documented evidence of receiving a measles-containing vaccine or documented evidence of laboratory confirmed measles are considered to be highly susceptible to measles. All people in this age group are recommended to receive two doses of a measles-containing vaccine.

2014 Infant through Adult Immunization Schedules

Each year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) publishes immunization schedules for children (birth through 18 years) and adults (persons over 18 years). The following links summarizes the recommendations for routine vaccines.

- For children: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>.
- For adults: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/adult.html>.

The immunization schedule has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)), the American Academy of Family Physicians ([AAFP](#)), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ([ACOG](#)), the American College of Physicians ([ACP](#)), and the American College of Nurse-Midwives ([ACNM](#)).