Keeping CT Kids Healthy

CVP Update

National Influenza Vaccination Week
(NIVW) is December 2-8, 2018.
As family and friends are gathering for the holidays, #flu activity is increasing.
Now is the time to get a flu vaccine if you haven’t yet!

#NIVW #ImmunizeCT

CT WiZ Update

We have been listening to you since CT WiZ went live in September. We presented "CT WiZ - How Do I?" on the October 24th CT AAP webinar and you shared questions and feedback. You can still listen to the 30 minute recording at: Webinar Recording.

So, what did you ask?

How can my clinic’s EHR onboard to electronically report doses administered to CT WiZ? How much does it cost?
Your EHR Vendor/IT contact should visit our website: EHR Data Exchange, which includes step by step instructions and the application form. CT is following the national standards for electronic data exchange. There is no charge to set this up, but it will take some time to complete the onboarding process from registration to testing to production reporting. The process could move along faster if your vendor has already completed this process in other states. If your EHR is not ready for electronic exchange or your clinic has paper medical records, your clinic will continue with the same process as now. You might be eligible to obtain direct access to CT WiZ; contact DPH for more information.

When will my clinic be eligible to request access to CT WiZ?
Your EHR must complete the onboarding process with CT WiZ. Once your EHR is reporting doses administered in real-time (as you enter into your EHR, it automatically gets securely sent to CT WiZ), DPH will invite your clinic to request access via our website. This includes your primary and backup vaccine coordinators and any other staff in your office who need access. When that happens, DPH will also schedule your training on how to order your CVP vaccines in CT WiZ.
Check with your EHR Vendor/IT contact to see if they visited our website to start this process. (Currently, 80 clinics are in the EHR onboarding queue in various stages up through the testing phase.)

How can we find more information on CT WiZ?
Visit our All About CT WiZ website "Quick Links"
Know the site and get it right to prevent vaccine administration errors.

Know proper influenza (flu) vaccine administration technique to help avoid shoulder injuries and other adverse events.

Links include: comprehensive vaccine administration information, a short AAP video on the correct technique for intramuscular injection, an infographic on administering flu vaccine to an adult, and a link to vaccine administration e-Learn.

Adult Pneumococcal Vaccine Advertisements

Ads for the Adult Pneumococcal Vaccine will be displayed on billboards in November and December on I-95, I-91, I-84, and the Berlin Turnpike. Look for them in Hartford, Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Middletown. There are also radio spots playing now in larger cities.

2019 Provider Profiles/Provider Agreements

It is time to complete your annual provider profile/agreement. Provider profiles are due December 14. Send all 2019 Provider Profiles electronically. The provider profile this year is a fillable PDF file with a digital signature. You can access the provider profile, as well as directions on how to create a digital signature, at https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/CVP---Information-for-Providers under “Enrollment.” We will not accept forms that are printed, scanned, and sent to DPH.

Throughout the year, when you have updates in your clinic (your provider profile), visit our website at https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/CT-WiZ-Training and review the training material on How do I change information about my clinic (update staff/email/clinic)?
Communicating the Benefits of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

During the 2017–2018 influenza season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shared early estimates that influenza (flu) accounted for more than 80,000 deaths. Of these, 183 were pediatric deaths, and 80% of these children had not received a flu vaccination. To help patients understand the importance of protecting themselves and their loved ones, public health officials and providers should communicate the benefits of flu vaccination in helping to reduce disease outcomes, including hospitalization and death.

What are the Benefits of Seasonal Flu Vaccine?

Research has shown that flu vaccination:

- Reduces Hospitalization and Death
  - Reduction of pediatric deaths from flu by 51% for children with underlying high-risk medical conditions and 65% for healthy children.
  - Reduction of hospitalizations for vaccinated adults and seniors by 22% for all adults and 24% for those 65+ years of age.
  - Reduction of hospitalizations among people with chronic health conditions, including diabetes (79%) and chronic lung disease (52%).

- Reduces Severity of Illness in Hospitalized Individuals
  - Reduction of intensive care unit (ICU) admission by 59% in hospitalized adults associated with vaccination against flu compared to the non-vaccinated.
  - Reduction of children’s risk of flu-related pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) admission by 74%.

- Reduces Risks for Major Cardiac Events
  - Reduction of heart attack risk (29%) and major cardiac events (36%) demonstrated in people with existing cardiovascular disease.
  - Flu vaccine is as effective as a statin in preventing heart attacks (statin 19–30% effective vs. flu vaccine 15–45% effective).

- Reduces Loss of Independence in Adults
  - 15% of older adults hospitalized with influenza were shown to experience catastrophic disability (defined as a loss of independence in ≥3 basic Activities of Daily Living).

- Protects Pregnant Women and Their Babies
  - Reduction of risk of flu-associated acute respiratory infection in pregnant women by 50%.

Tips

How to Discuss Vaccine Effectiveness

- Keep it simple: “Flu vaccine helps reduce risk of hospitalization and death.”
- Use a presumptive approach: “Today we are giving you your annual flu vaccination.”
- Communicate why we vaccinate: “Vaccination prevents the severe outcomes of flu.”
- Communicate the variability and unpredictability of flu: “This is why it is best to get an annual flu vaccination.”
- Acknowledge that flu vaccination is not always a perfect match with the circulating virus types, but it is the best way to protect against flu infection and its outcomes; any flu vaccination is better than none.

Vaccination rates remained well below optimal levels during the 2017–2018 influenza season:

- 47%* for all people 6+ months
- 58% for children ages 6 months through 17 years (one dose)
- 39%* for adults 18+ years
- 57%* for adults 65+ years
- 68%* for healthcare personnel
- 36%* for pregnant women

*Early-season data available only (as of November 2017)

Footnotes

 iii. ACIP Meeting. Atlanta, GA. June 20, 2018.

11/1/2018