National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs who promote healthy communities throughout the U.S. During NIIW, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces their Childhood Immunization Champion awards. These awards acknowledge the outstanding efforts of individuals who strive to ensure that children in their communities are fully immunized against fourteen preventable diseases before age two.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that Hyung Paek, MD, Medical Director of Information Technology (IT) at Fair Haven Community Health Care and Yale New Haven Health Systems, has been named CDC’s Connecticut Childhood Immunization Champion for his outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization in the state of Connecticut.

Dr. Hyung Paek is recognized for innovating and promoting IT to improve the efficiency and quality of clinical care in the greater New Haven community, including immunization rates. Under Dr. Paek’s leadership, Yale New Haven Health Services and Fair Haven Community Health Care were the first pediatric clinics in Connecticut to report electronically from their electronic health record (EHR) to the Connecticut Immunization Information System (IIS).

Dr. Paek is a pediatrician and a father who has seen the overwhelming positive impact immunization has on the health of children. “Childhood infections that used to cause severe illnesses and, in some cases, death are now a historical footnote that is open to debate in a small group of the population, mostly those who they themselves or their friends and family have not witnessed the severe consequences of those illnesses.”

Dr. Paek has said “Having accurate immunization information in the hands of those who need it is key to keeping our children healthy. All too often, scattered medical information across many EHRs and paper records cause us to fail in vaccinating appropriately or, in some cases, repeat unnecessary vaccinations. Immunization registries are an important tool for providers as well as parents to maintain high immunization rates, not only to protect those who do receive the vaccinations, but also those who do not.”
National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities throughout the United States.

- Communities have continued to use the week each year to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring all children are fully protected from vaccine preventable diseases through immunization. Today, many immunization programs, partners and communities can celebrate high infant immunization rates.
- Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Among children born during 1994-2016, vaccination will prevent an estimated 381 million illnesses, 24.5 million hospitalizations, and 855,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes.
- Immunization is a shared responsibility. Families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials must work together to help protect the entire community.
- Join the Twitter Storm at #ivax2protect!
- For more information on NIIW, the CDC website has information at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html.
- Activities will be held all over Connecticut that week for children and their parents.

**HPV Bus Advertisements**

The Immunization Program has received some funding for a multi-faceted HPV ad campaign. The first part of the campaign will include bus advertisements for HPV vaccine that will be running on buses in Hartford, New Britain, Stamford, and New Haven the weeks of April 9–May 6 and July 30 - August 26.
Statewide Vaccination Rates Continue to Improve

CIRTS data are used to calculate the percentage of children that complete the primary childhood vaccine series (4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 hepatitis B, 1 varicella, and 4 PCV vaccine doses) by 24 months. For the 2014 birth cohort, the statewide rate was 87%. Immunization Action Plan (IAP) area rates were also calculated based on children enrolled in CIRTS who reside in the town(s) of the IAP area. The IAP Programs are located in the areas at highest risk of low immunization rates and their objective is to increase the coverage rates among pre-school age children. The composite IAP area rate for the 2014 birth cohort was also 87%. Please see the DPH Vaccine-preventable Disease Dashboard for additional information (www.ct.gov/dph/dashboard).

Statewide Immunization Status on 2\textsuperscript{nd} Birthday for Children Enrolled in CIRTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Cohort</th>
<th>IAP Rate</th>
<th>Statewide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the DPH State Immunization Program Webinar

The upcoming CT AAP Webinar Date is May 10 at Noon. Join us and hear about the new Immunization Information System which will be known as CT WiZ.

This new system will be the single location for all of your vaccination needs including ordering, reconciling, and recording vaccinations.

To register for the webinar, go to http://ct-aap.org/2018

For additional questions or information on immunizations, please contact the Connecticut Vaccine Program at (860) 509-7929.
Congratulations to the Following Practices for Achieving a ≥ 90 - 94% Immunization Rate on CIRTS Enrolled Children Born in 2014

Alliance Medical Group/Greater Waterbury
Avon Pediatrics
Banack, Sherry MD
Bay Street Pediatrics
Bridgeport Family Health
Brookside Pediatrics
Bush/Spiegelman/Pemberton/Robert MD’s
Canterbury Pediatrics
CHC/New London
Child & Adolescent Health/New Haven
Child & Adolescent Health/ Waterbury
Day Kimball Medical Group/Danielson
Day Kimball Pediatric Center
East Granby Family Practice
First Choice Health Center/E Hartford
Gales Ferry Pediatric
Guilford Pediatrics
Marmer, Ellen MD
Merced, Wanda MD
Meriden Family Practice
Meriden Pediatric Associates
Mt Sinai/Burgdorf
New London Family Practice
Newington Pediatrics
Newtown Center Pediatrics
North Stonington Backus Health Center
Northwest Hills Pediatric/Sharon
Norwich Pediatric/Norwich
Optimum Medical
Optimus Health Care/E Main St
Optimus Health Care/Main St Pediatric
Optimus Health Care/Park City
Park Street Pediatric
Pediatric & Adolescent Health Care/Ansonia
Pediatric & Adolescent Health/Brookfield
Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine/Cheshire
Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine/Orange
Pediatric & Adolescent Med/Wallingford
Pediatric Associates/Cheshire
Pediatric Care Associates/Shelton
Pedi Healthcare Associates/Bridgeport
Pediatrics Plus
Pedicorp/West Hartford
Pedicorp/Windsor
Personal Care Pediatric
Peterson, Mark MD
Pond Place Pediatrics/Prospect
Prakash Pediatrics
Primed Pediatrics/Trumbull
Prohealth Physicians/Windsor
Ram, Amitabh MD
Reliable Pediatrics
Shaban, Sedat MD
Smart Start Pediatrics
South Windsor Pediatrics
Southington Pediatric Associates
Starling Physicians/Pediatric/New Britain
Starling Physicians/Pediatric/Newington
Stamford Pediatric/Stamford
Summer Pediatrics
SW/Com Health Center/Fairfield
TLC Pediatrics
Unionville Pediatric Group
Vernon Pediatrics
West Hartford Pediatrics
West Haven Pediatrics
Wildwood Pediatric/Old Say
Yale New Haven Pediatric PCC
Congratulations to the Following Practices for Achieving a ≥ 95 - 100% Immunization Rate on CIRTS Enrolled Children Born in 2014

Auerbach Pediatrics
Baker Pediatrics
Bridgeport Hospital Primary Care
Bristol Pediatric Center
Branford Pediatric & Allergy/Branford
Branford/N Branford Pedi/Branford
Branford/N Branford Pedi/N Branford
Central Pediatrics
CHC/Clinton
CHC/Danbury
CHC/Groton
CHC/Hartford at CCMC
CHC/Waterbury
Child Care Associate/Danbury
Children's Med Associates
Children's Med Grp/ Bloomfield
Children's Med Grp/Hamden
Children's Med Grp/Rocky Hill
Center Advanced Pediatrics/Norwalk
Center For Pedi Med/Danbury
Center For Pediatric Medicine/N Jfclid
Com Health Center/Norwalk
Cornerstone Pediatrics
CT Valley Pedi Center
Curi, Michael MD
Doctors Pediatric/Ridgefield
Doctors Pediatric/Wilton
East Avenue Pediatrics
Ellington Pediatrics
Enfield Pediatric Associates
Farmington Pedi & Adolescent Med
Flanders Pediatrics
Galan, Laurentiu MD
Gales Ferry Pediatric/Old Saybrook
GDHC/ South
Gold Star Pediatrics
Greenwich Hospital Amb Pediatric
Hamden Pediatrics
Hartford Area Pediatrics
High Ridge Family Practice
Lavoie, Richard J. MD
Mansfield Fam Practice
Marlborough Pediatrics
Middlesex Pediatric Associates
Milford Pedi Grp/Stratford
New Britain Pediatric Group
Norwich Pediatric/Colchester
Optimus Health Care/Atlantic St
Optimus Health Care/Fam Med Cnt
Parnes, Robert MD
Pedi & Med Associate/Cheshire
Pedi & Med Associate/New Haven
Pedi Associate/Branford
Pedi Associate/Bristol
Pedi Associate/New London
Pedi Healthcare Associates/Jfclid Cnt
Pedi Associate/Western CT
Pedi Healthcare Assoc/Shelton
Pedi Healthcare Assoc/Strtfd
Pedi Healthcare Assoc/Trumbull
Pediatric Medicine/Wlgfd
Pediatric Partners/Bloomfield
Phillips, Foster I. MD
Pioneer Valley Pediatrics
Rainbow Pediatrics
Rocky Hill Pediatrics
Sacheti, Vandana MD
Santoro, Fred E. MD
Schwartz, Lester MD
Shoreline Pedi/Clinton
Shoreline Pedi/Madison/North
Simsbury Pediatrics
Somerset Fam Health Care
Spiesel/Butler/Davis MD's
Starling Phys/Pedi/Plainville
Stamford Pedi/Darien
Stratford Pediatrics
Sutay and Stewart Pediatrics
SW/ Com Health Center/Albion
The Healthy Child
Toscano, Robert MD
Village Pediatrics
Western CT Med Grp/Southbury
Willows Pediatric Group
Yale Health Plan Pediatrics

Recognition based on the following schedule administered on or before the children’s 2nd birthday
Valid 4:3:1:3:3:1:4: 4 DTaP, 3 Polia, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 4 PCV.
Rate is based on practices with ≥ 10 CIRTS enrolled children born in 2014