This is the 25th anniversary of National Infant Immunization Week, celebrating the importance of protecting our youngest patients from vaccine preventable diseases. Information and promotional materials are available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niww/index.html. You are able to print off posters, there are social media graphics in the digital toolkit that your clinics can use, and even presentations that you are able to download and present at your clinics or in the community. We strongly encourage you to view these materials to utilize them in your clinics.

Welcome Two New Team Members

Jeri Weberg-Bryce became the Program Manager for the Nebraska Immunization Program on February 11, 2019. She was formerly the Program Manager for the NDHHS Division of Public Health STD Program. Shelley Ball became the new Administrative Assistant II of the Nebraska Immunization Program on January 3, 2019. Shelley came from NDHHS Environmental Health Unit. Both of these women are a great addition to our team!

Would You Know Measles If You Saw It?

Measles (also known as rubeola virus) is a highly contagious acute respiratory virus that has recently been making big news across the United States. Measles is one of the world’s most contagious diseases, which is spread by coughing and sneezing or by direct contact with infected secretions. The virus can remain active and contagious in the air, or on an infected surface for up to two (2) hours. Symptoms appear about 7 to 14 days after being infected.

This disease has been characterized by starting with the three “C’s”, runny nose (coryza), cough, red eyes (conjunctivitis), and a high fever that is followed after a few days by a rash. The rash spreads from the head down to the lower extremities. Patients are considered to be contagious from four (4) days before to (4) days after the rash appears. Also, two to three days after symptoms begin, tiny white spots, called Koplik spots, may appear inside the mouth.

Measles had been declared to be eliminated from the U.S. in 2000, however, in some areas with low vaccination rates, the numbers of those infected has increased. The rise in measles cases can be most closely linked with an increase of infected travelers coming into the U.S. from countries where measles is more prevalent, and due to lower vaccination coverage in some areas.

There is no treatment for measles, only prevention, with an MMR vaccine. The recommendation is for children to receive their first dose of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) between 12-15 months of age, with the second dose at age 4-6 years of age. It is possible to receive the second dose sooner, as long as it is at least 28 days after the first dose.

The Immunization Action Coalition has Measles highlighted in their Technically Speaking column for March 2019. This article also contains many reputable resources for education for both the providers and their patients: http://www.immunize.org/technically-speaking/20190328.asp. (Information obtained from CDC)

Return your expired data loggers!

If you have received your newly re-calibrated data loggers and haven’t sent back the expired data loggers, please do so as soon as possible. This will allow us to have those data loggers re-calibrated and sent out to other clinics that will need them. Don’t forget your back-up that you probably have stored in a drawer or cupboard.