

VFC PROGRAM UPDATE

By the Nebraska DHHS: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

March 2015

Disease Prevention & Outbreaks

Measles (Rubeola) is not the only communicable disease but the current outbreak of measles has brought attention to the importance of high vaccination coverage levels. Measles cases are increasing according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Measles is a serious disease and MMR vaccination is very important. MMR vaccine and other ACIP recommended vaccines are available for VFC eligible children; however, did you know that there are resources available for adult immunizations and outbreak response? Frequently Asked Questions...

Q: What vaccination resources are available for eligible adults?

A: Adults who are **uninsured** or **underinsured** can receive certain adult vaccines at public health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). This adult program is available through the use of section 317 funds which is separate from VFC. The vaccines currently available in the adult program are MMR, Hepatitis A & B, Varicella, Meningococcal, Td/Tdap, Pneumococcal, HPV, and Zoster (shingles). An example of an **underinsured** adult would be someone who has health insurance but it does not cover a certain vaccine such as the shingles vaccine. This underinsured adult would be eligible to receive the non-covered vaccine at a public health clinic or FQHC.

Q: What vaccination resources are available to respond to an outbreak?

A: Section 317 funds can be used to proactively vaccinate susceptible individuals and can be used for post-exposure vaccination during an outbreak situation.

Rebecca Martinez RN became the new VFC coordinator in January 2015. Rebecca is the nurse contact for the Lincoln clinics and several of the Omaha area clinics. "My goal is to continue to promote vaccination efforts for a healthier local and state community while working to reduce health disparities. Thank you for your support and vaccination efforts"

- Rebecca Martinez RN

Measles Cases and Outbreaks

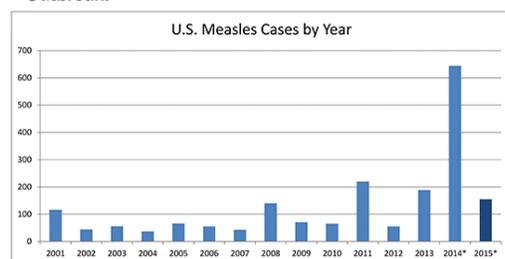
January 1 to February 20, 2015*

154
Cases

reported in 17 states and Washington DC: Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington

3
Outbreaks

representing 90% of reported cases this year



*Provisional data reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



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- Thanks for Flu Pre-Book—Ordering is separate



Save the Date

12th Annual Immunize Nebraska Conference

It is that time of year again for the Annual Immunize Nebraska Conference which is a great opportunity to learn about immunization issues, changes to the recommended schedules, and other topics. This is an excellent time to learn about other complementary programs within the state of Nebraska that focus on immunizations and reducing vaccine preventable diseases.

Friday, June 5, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Hilton Omaha Hotel

1001 Cass Street

Omaha, Nebraska

Register at

2015immunize.eventbrite.com

Agenda on the NDHHS

Immunization website

*Provided by Immunization Task Force
Metro Omaha, Creighton University
Health Sciences Continuing Education
& Nebraska DHHS . In memoriam of
Kathryn L. White.*

NOW SCHEDULING 2015 VFC SITE VISITS

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Site Visits

Each calendar year, the five nurses of the Nebraska DHHS Vaccines for Children program must visit their assigned VFC clinics and conduct a compliance site visit. This is an opportunity to ensure that the requirements of the program are being met and that any educational needs or concerns are addressed. Our goal is to work with you for mutual benefit and keep your clinic accessible to VFC eligible children. By properly maintaining your vaccine supply, you provide high quality vaccines within the child's medical home or community center which helps protect the patient and also the community at large. Thank you for being a provider!

What's New For 2015 VFC Site Visits?

1. We must have a billing representative available by phone or in person to answer questions if needed.
2. Need back-up contact, thermometer, & initials on log.

COMING SOON—Register by March 30th

Lincoln Immunization Vaccination Effort (LIVE)

Coalition Immunization Update

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska

Agenda & Registration info. on the NDHHS Immunization website



Storage & Handling recommendations ... not required at this time but strongly recommended.

- 1. If you need new thermometers, we still have a supply of digital min & max thermometers but you might want to research data loggers.**
- 2. Stand-alone refrigerators are strongly recommended with separate stand-alone freezers. (Of course, dorm style units can never be used.)**
- 3. Did you know that most refrigerated vaccines are worthless if they are frozen? It is recommended to have a thermometer that will alarm if it is getting close to a temperature that would be out of range. HOWEVER, remember that an alarm is useless if there is no one who knows how to respond to it.**



2015 AFIX Visits for Selected Clinics

Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Visits

Not all VFC providers will have an AFIX assessment and visit. Your clinic will be notified if you are selected for this individualized quality assessment that looks at vaccination rates for your clinic's 2 year old and teen populations and how they can improve. Reports are generated by your clinic's NDHHS Community Health Nurse that provides an overall summary of vaccination coverage levels and includes information on missing immunizations and invalid doses. The clinic will then choose two or three quality indicators to work on in the next 3-6 months and then feedback will be given at the end of that time based upon updated reports generated to assess improvement. If you are interested in having an AFIX assessment done, please contact your NDHHS Community Health Nurse.

New Policy: Ordering Privileges Can Be Suspended For Non-Compliance

We want to do everything we can to help support you and make you successful; however, it is important that enrolled providers follow all program requirements. If required reports are more than 2 months behind, you will not be able to order more vaccine and may be suspended from the program.

Reminder: Provider Enrollment & Provider Profile Forms

Provider enrollment and profile forms were due at the end of February. If they were not turned in, you will be unable to order more vaccine and may be suspended from the program. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Reminder: Having a Back-Up VFC Contact is a Requirement

Contact us with any VFC contact changes. The back-up must have read the signed the manual and be able to step in as needed. This is required.

Thanks for your flu pre-book, this is not an order but helps us plan ahead.

**“VACCINES ARE THE TUGBOATS OF PREVENTATIVE HEALTH.”
- William Foege MD, MPH**

Helpful CDC Resources

2015 UPDATED

Immunization Schedules

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

Vaccine Information Statements

Current VISs

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

Vaccine Storage and Handling

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>



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Immunization website

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/immunization>

immunization

NESIIS Help Desk

Phone (888) 433-2510