NEW YEAR...New VFC Coordinator & New Program Manager

It’s a new year and the NDHHS Immunization Program wants to thank you! We appreciate everything you have done to administer high quality immunizations and support immunization efforts.

Lynn Jones, BSN, RN is the new VFC Coordinator. Lynn started in December and is in the process of reaching out to her assigned clinics to introduce herself.

Rebecca Martinez, BSN, RN was formerly the VFC Coordinator and now is the Immunization Program Manager. Sara Morgan was promoted to Administrator.

We want to congratulate Louayne Hoback on her retirement, Louayne held the position of NDHHS staff assistant and all staff will be assisting with duties.

One healthcare organization joins Immunization Action Coalition’s (IAC) Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll for mandatory healthcare worker vaccination

Nearly 600 organizations are now enrolled in IAC’s Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll. The honor roll recognizes hospitals, medical practices, professional organizations, health departments, and government entities that have taken a stand for patient safety by implementing mandatory influenza vaccination policies for healthcare personnel. Since May 11, when IAC Express last reported on the Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll, one additional healthcare organization has been enrolled. IAC urges qualifying healthcare organization to apply.

Newly added hospital: Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, Omaha.
Having diphtheria, tetanus, or pertussis disease does not result in long term active immunity. Persons who recover from any of these diseases should begin or complete the age-appropriate vaccine series and receive booster doses as appropriate.
**MMR Storage:** Store MMR in the freezer to better protect viability.

Clinic selection of Primary and Back Up VFC Coordinators is vital to ensuring clinic operations continue without interruption.

Back up Coordinators should be trained and included in VFC management the same as the Primary Coordinator. In particular, training on NESIIS is critical.

Please contact the clinic assigned Community Health Nurse or the NESIIS Team to schedule needed staff training.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently published two policy statements, “Countering Vaccine Hesitancy” and “Medical Versus Non-Medical Immunization Exemptions for Child Care and School Attendance.”

In light of these statements, we would like to remind you of some of the resources available on AAP’s and CDC’s websites to support clinicians in their vaccine conversations with parents.

**AAP:** Resource for Communicating with Families; [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

**CDC:** Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents; [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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**Earn CMEs, CNEs, & Pharmacy CEs when you watch #SYLove**

Are you a medical professional or know someone who is? Physicians, nurses, and pharmacists can now earn continuing education credits when they watch Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic at a live event or online.

**The best part...there is NO COST!**

Visit [hpvepidemic.com/cme](http://hpvepidemic.com/cme)

The more providers and all staff understand about the dangers of HPV, the closer we will be to eliminating HPV related cancers and disease burden.
**RESOURCE CORNER**

The Guide to Community Preventive Services is a free resource to help you choose programs and policies to improve health and prevent disease in your community. Systematic reviews are used to answer these questions:

- Which program and policy interventions have been proven effective?
- Are there effective interventions that are right for my community?
- What might effective interventions cost?
- What is the likely return on investment?

Obtain your copy at [http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html)

Please inform your Community Health Nurse at least 90 days prior to vaccine expiration. Review if expiration could have been prevented and return unopened expired vaccine within 3 months.

If an unusual increase in vaccine is needed, please email Gary Miller, Vaccine Ordering Specialist. Provide a reason as each order is reviewed for current inventory and trends of overstock.

VFC & Adult Immunization Program (AIP) eligibilities differ, see program manual. Children in the NE Refugee Program receive Medicaid Managed Care (VFC eligible). Adults in the NE Refugee Program are not eligible for AIP vaccine except for HPV as the Refugee Medical Assistance Funding along with adult Medicaid Managed Care cover immunizations except for HPV. As a reminder, AIP vaccine is only for those uninsured or rarely underinsured. Please contact Kristin Gall at 402-471-1372 for questions.

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