



AAP IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

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Links to AAP Resources

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The Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP) is a cooperative agreement grant between the CDC and AAP. (Cooperative Agreement: U66/CCU524285-01)



Updates and Alerts

- **Letter to Parents about Vaccines from Eileen Ouellette, MD, JD, FAAP, 2005-06 President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**
Thanks to vaccines, most parents and grandparents do not have to watch their children suffer from diseases that were common just a few decades ago. To find out how firsthand experience with measles made the New AAP President a vaccine advocate, [click here](#).
- **Merck Submits Biologics License Application to FDA for Gardasil™**
Merck & Co, Inc., submitted a [Biologics License Application](#) for Gardasil™ to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on December 1, 2005. Gardasil™ is designed to protect against four types of human papillomavirus (HPV), which account for an estimated 70% of cervical cancer cases and 90% of genital wart cases.
- **Combined Live Attenuated Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine Licensed**
The FDA recently licensed and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended a combined live attenuated measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine for use in children aged 12 months-12 years. The MMRV vaccine can decrease the number of injections received by children. For the full Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) report, [click here](#).
- **Universal Hepatitis A Immunization Recommended by ACIP**
At the October meeting, the ACIP recommended that all children in the US receive hepatitis A vaccine. Pending CDC approval of the recommendation, a universal recommendation for hepatitis A vaccination (2-dose series) of children between 1-2 years of age will be integrated into the routine childhood vaccination schedule. AAP recommendations regarding hepatitis A vaccination will be available in 2006. To read the *AAP News* article, [click here](#).
- **CDC Seeks Public Comment**
The CDC is seeking public comment on the new [CDC Health Protection Research Guide, 2006-2015](#). The comment period, which began on Friday, November 18, 2005, will last for 60 days, concluding on January 15, 2006. The Research Guide will provide a comprehensive, long-range vision of national and global public health needs that CDC and its partners can address through research. Comments from CDC partners, stakeholders and the public will be considered in producing the final version the Research Guide, expected to be completed in early 2006. For more information, please call Jamila Rashid, PhD, MPH, of CDC's Office of Public Health Research, at 404/639-4621 or e-mail: ResearchGuide@cdc.gov. More information about the Office of Public Health Research and the new Research Guide can be found [here](#).
- **CDC Proposes New Rule for Control of Communicable Diseases**
The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC are updating federal regulations for the control of communicable diseases. The proposed rule is designed to provide more modern and clearer authorities for control of communicable diseases at the federal level. CDC invites public comment on the revisions. [Click here](#) to read the proposed revisions. To read a telebriefing transcript on this topic, [click here](#).

Pediatric Practice in Action!

The AAP Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine Implementation Information for 2005 is now available to AAP Members on the Member Center. To access the guidance via the Member Center, visit: www.aap.org/moc/immunizations/Tdap121205.pdf

The Prevention of Pertussis Among Adolescents: Recommendations for Use of Tdap Vaccine Policy Statement is available here: www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/Tdap121205.pdf.

Upcoming Events

- **Practical Pediatrics CME Course for 16.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits**
January 12-15, 2006
Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Web site: www.pedialink.org/cme/coursefinder/CMEdetail.cfm?aid=27158&area=liveCME
- **40th Annual National Immunization Conference**
March 6-9, 2006 (Early bird registration ends January 13)
Atlanta, GA
Web site: www.cdc.gov/nip/NIC/default.htm
- **7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions**
August 9 - 11, 2006
Abstract submission deadline: January 27, 2006
Denver, Colorado
Web site: www.seeuthere.com/event/m2c666-455170415278

NEW 2006 Childhood Immunization Schedule and Catch-up Schedule Released

The AAP, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians have issued the recommended 2006 childhood immunization schedule for the United States. The 2006 schedule reflects several changes from the previous year. [Click here](#) to view the MMWR report.

Funding Opportunities

- **Supporting Health and Social Issues Research**
The Commonwealth Fund financially supports nonprofits researching health and social issues and makes grants to improve healthcare practice and policy. Preference is given to projects that seek to solve problems, especially those affecting vulnerable groups such as the poor, young and needy. For more information, visit the [Web site](#). **Rolling deadline.**
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Changes in Health Care Financing & Organization program is accepting applications that focus on: the effects of current or proposed mechanisms for financing health services on healthcare costs, access and quality; or the development and testing of new ways to finance care that have the potential to improve families' access to more affordable health services. Visit the [Web site](#) for more information. **Rolling deadline.**
- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Small Grant Program for Conference Support**
AHRQ announces its continued interest in supporting conferences through its Small Grant Program for Conference Support. AHRQ seeks to support conferences that help to further its mission to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. The types of conferences eligible for support include: 1) Research development; 2) Design and methodology - conferences where methodological and technical issues of major importance in the field of health services research are addressed or new designs and methodologies are developed; 3) Dissemination conferences; or 4) Research Training, Infrastructure and Career Development conferences. Visit the [Web site](#) for more information. **Deadlines: February 20, April 20, June 20, August 20, and October 20 (annually).**
- **Primary Care Service Delivery for the Underserved**
Health Resources and Services Administration is providing \$10.2 million in 53 grants to coordinate local, state, and federal resources contributing to primary care service delivery and workforce issues in the state to meet the needs of medically underserved populations through health centers and other community-based providers of comprehensive primary care. For more information, contact Valorie DeVonish at 301/594-0816 or e-mail vdevonish@hrsa.gov. **Deadline: January 13, 2006.**
- **Kaiser Permanente Cares for Communities**
The Kaiser Permanente Cares for Communities program aims to produce positive changes in the health of the communities it serves. The program focuses on reducing disparities in healthcare, examining vulnerable populations, evidence based medicine and education to advance medical knowledge. Grants for nonprofit organizations range from \$5,000 to \$100,000. The average award is a one-year grant of \$20,000. For more information, visit the [Web site](#). **Rolling deadline.**



Got an idea about a topic you'd like us to cover?
Email us at: cispimmunize@aap.org

Resources

➤ **2005 CDC Guidelines: Recommended Antimicrobial Agents for the Treatment and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Pertussis**

Despite high vaccination levels, pertussis cases continue to rise. Vaccination is the best primary prevention. However, post exposure prophylaxis includes antimicrobial agents. The recommendations explore previous guidelines and make new recommendations regarding which type of antimicrobial agent to use, with special consideration for infants <6 months old. For the MMWR report, [click here](#).

➤ **Report on Measles Released**

During 2004, 37 cases of measles were reported in the United States, the lowest number of cases ever recorded in one year. A recent MMWR describes the characteristics of these cases. For the full MMWR report, [click here](#).

➤ **Influenza Modeling Tool**

In November, CDC released a new version of its FluSurge program, an Excel-based modeling tool for projecting the impact of flu epidemics on hospitals. The FluSurge program calculates an epidemic's impact on hospital capacity based on user-supplied data on population, and the number of available hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators. For more information, [click here](#).

➤ **New Module Released in "You Call the Shots" Series**

CDC's National Immunization Program (NIP) announces the release of the third instructional module in the Immunization: You Call the Shots series of web-based training materials. This latest module, titled "Polio," discusses polio disease, the polio vaccine, and recommendations for vaccine use. Extra learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary are all provided in an attractive, easy-to-use format. Immunization: You Call the Shots is an interactive, self-study course that participants can complete at their own pace. It is intended for introductory training of healthcare professionals who provide immunizations and can serve as a reference or refresher for all immunization providers. The course is available free of charge on the [NIP Web site](#). Continuing education credits are provided.

➤ **New Edition of Spanish-Language Health Resources Knowledge Path Available**

The new edition of Knowledge Path: Spanish-Language Health Resources includes information on (and links to) Web sites, electronic and print publications, and databases for health professionals and consumers. Produced by the Maternal and Child Health Library, the knowledge path covers a wide range of health topics, including many of interest to families and professionals in the maternal and child health community. A Spanish translation of the 2005 edition to update the August 2003 edition is also being developed. [Click here](#) for the knowledge path.

➤ **Report on Pertussis Released**

Reported pertussis cases increased from a historic low of 1,010 in 1976 to 11,647 cases in 2003. The [MMWR report](#) summarizes national surveillance data on pertussis reported to CDC during 2001 - 2003 and focuses on pertussis reported among persons aged 10--19 years.

➤ **Recommendations for Eliminating Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection**

This report is the first of a two-part statement from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that updates the strategy to eliminate hepatitis B virus (HBV) transmission in the United States. The [MMWR report](#) provides updated recommendations to prevent perinatal and early childhood HBV transmission and to increase vaccine coverage among previously unvaccinated children and adolescents.

Announcements from the National Immunization Program (NIP)

● **NIP Needs Pilot Testers**

● NIP has an ongoing need for volunteers to pilot test immunization training courses. Volunteers are particularly needed in the following occupations: physicians, pharmacists, health educators, medical assistants and nurses. To learn more about becoming a pilot tester, please send an email to nippilot@cdc.gov.

● **Job Openings within NIP**

● The National Immunization Program (NIP) is committed to recruiting and hiring qualified candidates for a wide range of positions. Researchers, Medical Officers and Epidemiologists as well as other specialties are often needed to fill positions within NIP. Interested parties are encouraged to apply for these positions. For a current listing of positions available at NIP, please visit www.cdc.gov/hrmo/hrmo.htm

Featured Research Findings and Policy Recommendations

Routine Childhood Immunizations Save Billions Each Year

Fangjun Zhou, PhD; Jeanne Santoli, MD, MPH; Mark L. Messonnier, PhD; Hussain R. Yusuf, MBBS, MPH; Abigail Shefer, MD; Susan Y. Chu, PhD, MSPH; Lance Rodewald, MD; Rafael Harpaz, MD, MPH

A recent study by CDC's National Immunization Program (NIP) evaluated the impact of seven vaccines (DTaP, Td, Hib, polio, MMR, hepatitis B, and varicella) routinely given as part of the childhood immunization schedule and found that vaccines are tremendously cost effective. This is the first time the seven vaccines have been examined together and with a common methodology.

The study found that the use of these seven vaccines will prevent over 14 million cases of disease and over 33,500 deaths over the lifetime of children born this year. When comparing the cost of the diseases they prevent and the cost of administering them, these vaccines save nearly \$10 billion per year. These vaccines also prevent the need for patients to spend time seeking care and the need for parents to take time off work to care for sick children. When including these and other prevented costs to society, the annual savings exceed \$40 billion.

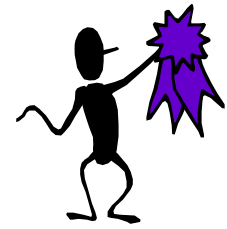
A child is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases after receiving a series of vaccines over time, not just one shot. Therefore, this economic evaluation is groundbreaking in that previous studies demonstrating the cost savings of childhood vaccination in the United States have only focused on single vaccines. Expanding beyond the single- vaccine cost benefit perspective provides policymakers better information about the economic impact of the immunization program by examining a routine seven-vaccine U.S. childhood immunization schedule.

This analysis will be helpful in understanding the economic effects of the immunization program under current circumstances. Administrators and policy makers may use the results to justify sustained support for programs, make needed modifications and guide future programs. The publication entitled, "Economic Evaluation of the 7-Vaccine Routine Childhood Immunization Schedule in the United States, 2001" appears in the December 2005 edition of the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. [A summary](#) is available on the Archives Web site.

Featured Immunization Policy

- [**AAP Issues "Prevention of Pertussis Among Adolescents: Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis \(Tdap\) Vaccine" Policy Statement**](#). To protect adolescents against pertussis and reduce the reservoir of pertussis within the population at large, the AAP has released a new policy recommending adolescents, 11-18 years of age (preferably at the 11-to12-year visit) receive the newly licensed tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. This policy also contains extensive information on special circumstances surrounding the use of the Tdap vaccine. An article (including Q & A's) by Sara Long, MD, FAAP, COID, featured in *AAP News*, is available at: <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/e2005188v1?ijkey=PocLj0YmkSnnM&keytype=ref&siteid=aapjournals>.

Immunization Excellence Award Recipients



The National Partnership for Immunization (NPI) Immunization Excellence Awards recognize those programs that have made exceptional contributions to increasing immunization rates in the United States. State and local organizations may apply by highlighting how they have increased awareness and acceptance of vaccines in their communities. Immunization experts review the applications and choose winners in 4 categories: Addressing Disparities, Campaign, Non-traditional Partner, and Provider. In recognition of the excellent immunization work these groups have done, the AAP has chosen to highlight the following 2005 award recipients!

[California Distance Learning Health Network \(CDLHN\)- Immunization Campaign](#)

Despite the enormous success of immunizations over the past 50 years, there are still children who are not getting their shots. In an effort to increase awareness among parents about the importance of following the recommended immunization schedule, California Distance Learning Health Network and the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization staged a series of statewide educational events focusing on the importance of childhood immunizations, highlighting the vulnerability of under-immunized children, and encouraging providers to use reminder-recall systems. Overall "*It's Not Magic. It's Immunizations!*" media coverage was comprehensive with print stories, television news coverage, and radio interviews featured.

[Kelsey-Seybold Clinic- Immunization Provider](#)

Immunization of healthcare workers for influenza has historically been low. At Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, a 300 provider/2,200 employee multi-specialty group clinic centered in Houston, Texas, influenza immunization rates in the 2003-2004 season were at 35% despite easy access to influenza vaccinations in the workplace. Kelsey-Seybold Clinic developed a 4-pronged employee education approach in response to CDC recommendations to focus on vaccination of healthcare workers to reduce the burden and transmission of influenza disease, as well as to model appropriate vaccination behavior for clinic patients. At the end of the program, 51% of employees had been vaccinated, a 16% increase from the previous year.

[Get Immunized Free on Tuesday \(GIFT\)- Immunization Non-Traditional Partner](#)

In Boise, Idaho, Saint Alphonsus Church, St Luke's Health Center and Success by Six sponsored private providers and health departments to provide free immunization clinics on the second Tuesday of the month. Over 10,000 children have been vaccinated in 3 years.

[The Center for Rochester's Health- Addressing Immunization Disparities](#)

About 7,000 African American seniors live in Monroe County, most in the city of Rochester, New York. Despite several community interventions to increase adult immunizations, large disparities persist between blacks and whites. In 2001 71% of whites aged 65 years and over got influenza vaccine compared to 39% of blacks and 75% of whites versus 42% of blacks received pneumococcal vaccine. Racial and Ethnic Adult Disparities in Immunization Initiative (READII) involved office-based strategies to improve immunization rates among blacks, as well as culturally appropriate community education and outreach. Rochester READII significantly increased influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates among African American seniors and eliminated disparities by the second year. The program is modeled on a similar project aimed at increasing vaccination rates among children.