

Vermont Immunization Bulletin

March 2019

The Immunization Program at the Vermont Department of Health introduces the Vermont Immunization Bulletin. This new monthly publication is intended to bring you important information in a concise format. This Bulletin will replace the quarterly Vaccinate Vermont Newsletter.

Program Updates

[Change in Vaccine Temperature Monitoring Devices](#)

Beginning in April, new SensoScientific cloud-based Wi-Fi digital data loggers will be installed at all enrolled VFC/VFA practices. Among other benefits, they will not require downloads, have an audible alarm, and will allow immediate notification of all temperature excursions.

- "Vaccines are extremely sensitive to temperature fluctuations. In some cases, exposing a vaccine to the wrong environment once can effectively kill live viruses and harm proteins in the vaccines." [Vaccine Storage Too Often Fails To Meet Standards](#) *Kaiser Health News (February 12, 2019)*

Shingrix Supply

The Health Department anticipates some level of increase in the number of doses available for distribution to VFA enrolled practices in July. Program leadership continue to make the CDC aware of the implications of the State's low allocation. Until the supply is significantly increased, the Immunization Program will continue to distribute doses to practices ordering within their assigned schedule and with fewer than 10 doses remaining in their inventories.

- [Postlicensure Safety Surveillance of Recombinant Zoster Vaccine \(Shingrix\)](#) *MMWR Vol. 68. No. 4 (February 1, 2019)*
- Administration Questions? [Ask the Experts](#)

State Activities

Hepatitis A Prevention

Since March 2017, the CDC has assisted over 15 state health departments with hepatitis A outbreaks, that have occurred primarily among persons who use drugs, and/or persons experiencing homelessness, and their close contacts. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services issued a [press release](#) on February 5, 2019 noting that New Hampshire was in the "early stages" of a hepatitis A outbreak with 13 individuals diagnosed in the past three months.

Over the next few months, the Vermont Department of Health will be conducting outreach to homeless shelters to offer hepatitis A vaccination to persons experiencing homelessness and working with our partners to identify other ways to reach and immunize those at the highest risk.

- [Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of Hepatitis A Vaccine for Persons Experiencing Homelessness](#) *MMWR Vol. 68. No. 6 (February 15, 2019)*

Schedules and Recommendations

The [Advisory Committee On Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) met last week and continued to review data on the burden of HPV infection in mid-adults. Although the FDA approved 9VHPV vaccine for use in those 27-45 years, the ACIP has yet to make a recommendation.

- **Webinar:** National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is hosting a webinar and will discuss updates from the February ACIP meeting on March 19 at 12p.m. To register, click [here](#).

Research and Resources

New Research Confirms Measles Vaccine Doesn't Cause Autism

"The study strongly supports that MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism, does not trigger autism in susceptible children, and is not associated with clustering of autism cases after vaccination. It adds to previous studies through significant additional statistical power and by addressing hypotheses of susceptible subgroups and clustering of cases." [Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccination and Autism: A Nationwide Cohort Study](#), *Annals of Internal Medicine (March 5, 2019)*

- [One More Time, With Big Data: Measles Vaccine Doesn't Cause Autism](#), *The New York Times (March 5, 2019)*

Serogroup B Meningococcal Vaccine and College-bound Patients

Dr. Lewis First explores the question, is the [serogroup B meningococcal vaccine](#) something you need to strongly consider for your college-bound patients? *AAP Publications (blog) (January 2, 2019)*

The Overall Interim Estimated Effectiveness of Flu Vaccine was 47%

"On the basis of data from the U.S. Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network on 3,254 children and adults with acute respiratory illness during November 23, 2018–February 2, 2019, the overall estimated effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccine for preventing medically attended, laboratory-confirmed influenza virus infection was 47%." [Interim Estimates of 2018–19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness —United States](#) *MMWR Vol. 68 No.6 (February 15, 2019)*

Officials See No Link Between Miscarriage Risk and Flu Shots

"Health officials say further research has not found a miscarriage risk for women who get annual flu shots." *Seymour Tribune (February 28, 2019)*

"My Shot" Music Video

Are vaccines safe? How do they work? Is it possible a music video parody of Hamilton might help you find the answers to these questions? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEX80FNMOfe>