



April 19-26, 2008

Working together with

Vaccination Week in the Americas

National Infant Immunization Week

April 2008 Volume 11.1

### National Infant Immunization Week

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The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) April 19th to 26th. NIIW is a national, and international effort, to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities. Vaccination plays a critical role in safeguarding public health globally. During NIIW 2008, hundreds of communities across the United States will join those in the Western Hemisphere and Europe to celebrate Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) and European Immunization Week.

San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger will officially proclaim April 19 through April 26, 2008 as "Infant Immunization Week" in San Antonio. The highlight of the week will be a National Infant Immunization Week - Vaccines for Children Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 18th at the Marriott Hotel, San Antonio Northwest. Vaccines for Children providers will be invited, along with immunization partners and community leaders. VFC providers will be recognized for outstanding immunization rates and a keynote speaker

will deliver a luncheon immunization presentation by Dr. Sharon Humiston MD, MPH, FAAP.

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Dr. Humiston is a pediatrician who is also serving as Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York. Dr. Humiston is the medical director of

immunization outreach and quality improvement programs in Western New York. She was appointed to the National Vaccine Advisory committee, and is the Chair for the Subcommittee on Communication and Public Engagement. She previously served as an immunization educator for the CDC National Immunization Program. Dr. Humiston's presentation is sure to educate and motivate the audience.

This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual VFC Provider Recognition Event and NIIW Celebration hosted by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. VFC providers are encouraged to mark their calendars for lunch on April 18 and to check the mail for their invitation. For more information on NIIW, contact Vivian Flores at (210) 207-2868.

### Hib Vaccine Temporary Shortage Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in concert with other advisory bodies, has instituted interim recommendations for Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccination. These recommendations instruct health-care providers to temporarily defer the routine Hib vaccine booster dose, typically administered at 12-15 months of age, for children who are not among specific high-risk groups.

This deferment is a result of a voluntary recall, initiated by Merck & Co., Inc. in December 2007, of 10 U.S. lots of PedvaxHIB® and two lots of COMVAX® (Haemophilus b Conjugate and Hepatitis B Vaccine). Merck has suspended production of its Hib conjugate vaccines and does not expect to resume distribution of these vaccines until the fourth quarter of 2008. The recall of PedvaxHIB and Comvax and suspension of production has caused current disruption to the Hib vaccine supply in the United States.

Although Sanofi Pasteur is currently the sole supplier of Hib vaccine (ActHIB®) for the US, they are unable to produce sufficient quantities of ActHIB® to meet the demand of the entire US for a four-dose Hib vaccine series. Deferment of the booster dose is expected to maximize available supply until Merck can resume production. In the meantime Sanofi Pasteur continues to work closely with the CDC with the overarching goal to support immunization of the greatest number of children as possible. Supplies to the nation's healthcare providers (including SAMHD VFC) have been reduced as a result.

In December, a faxed memo was sent to all VFC providers informing providers about the situation and the interim recommendations. Some providers may be unaware of the magnitude of this situation and the importance of temporarily deferring the routine fourth dose of Hib vaccine. This is a serious issue that, if not corrected, may undermine the VFC

Program's ability to continue supplying Hib vaccine to enrolled providers. Everyone's cooperation, compliance, and understanding during this shortage is imperative so that available Hib vaccine is given to those infants most in need of the vaccine at the 2 month, 4 month and 6 month immunization visit.

What to do during the temporary Hib Shortage

- ✓ Continue regular vaccination for infants under 12 months.
- ✓ Do not give Hib vaccine booster dose to healthy children aged 12-15 months.
- ✓ Continue to give to high-risk children: those with asplenia, sickle cell disease, HIV, other immune syndromes, or who are Alaskan or Native American—boost as usual.
- ✓ Keep track of those children who did not get the booster dose.
- ✓ Plan to vaccinate them when supply improves.

VFC providers will be notified by fax when updates on Hib vaccine supplies become available.

### **VFC "Goes Live" with VMBIP, Third Party Vaccine Distribution in March**

On February 22, 2008, the last Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine orders were filled and delivered by VFC staff, from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Vaccine Depot at Southwest Branch, to participating VFC providers. During the first week of March, providers began receiving vaccine deliveries from McKesson Specialty. To date 150 provider orders have been filled via third party distribution.

Providers have been receiving their varicella orders two to three days after their refrigerated vaccines are delivered. Additionally, providers have received some excessive shipments and the excess vaccine was re-packed in the insulated boxes with cold packs and shipped back to McKesson. McKesson is working diligently to correct these errors and there should be fewer delivery errors in the future. Providers are reminded to keep the shipping containers that refrigerated vaccines arrive in for use in case of an excessive shipment, temporary cold storage in case of refrigeration malfunction, and to return expired vaccine to McKesson. Should you accumulate more than a couple of shipping containers please contact UPS to pick up the container for return to McKesson using the return shipping labels that should be located on the reverse flaps of the box.

Providers are urged to place their vaccine orders well ahead of time. Do not wait until you are low on vaccine to order!! Order your VFC vaccines before you run out. Leaving you at least a two-week supply of vaccine. If providers experience any problems with VFC vaccine orders call Tony

Vicencio at 207-4402 or Anthony Johnson at 207-4015.

### **2nd Dose of Varicella Vaccination Resumes**

In a fax dated April 1, 2008 VFC providers were notified that the Varicella vaccine supplies are now able to support the 2nd dose recommendation, the SAMHD will be resuming this recommendation based on the information below. VFC providers are encouraged to resume this recommendation and order vaccine accordingly in their next vaccine order. Please note that the MMR-V vaccine (ProQuad®) will not be available for order through the remainder of the year.

The recommended schedule for the two-dose varicella vaccine follows:

- ▶ Age 12 -15 months receive one dose
- ▶ Age 4 - 6 years receive second dose
- ▶ Minimum age for first dose is 12 months
- ▶ Minimum interval between dose 1 and 2 is 3 months if 1st dose is administered before 13 years of age.
- ▶ Minimum interval between dose 1 and 2 is 4 weeks if 1<sup>st</sup> dose is administered after 13 years of age.

All Texas school children (unless otherwise exempt) in grades K-12 should have already been immunized with at least one dose of varicella vaccine (2 doses if vaccine was given at 13 yrs of age) or have provided proof of immunity prior to school entry. When possible, a catch-up dose can be offered to children 7-18 years of age, without evidence of immunity, during a routine clinic visit.

The second dose can be administered at any interval longer than 3 months after the first dose of varicella-containing vaccine for patients 7-18 years of age. For patients 13 years or older the second dose can be administered 4-8 weeks after the first dose. Persons with a reliable history, which includes provider diagnosed or parental statement, of varicella disease should be considered immune and vaccination is not necessary. However, prior disease and immunity should be documented on the child's immunization record to include the month, day, and year of disease.

Additional and more comprehensive information is available at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5604a1.htm>

For questions or additional information, please contact Vivian Flores, VFC Coordinator at 207-2868.

## What a Difference Quality Assurance Can Make!

The QA/AFIX Team is pleased to report that during 2007; immunization coverage levels increased in 53% of VFC enrolled provider offices, 42% of sites were above the Healthy People 2010 Goal of 90% immunization coverage for their 4:3:1:3:3:1 series; 49% of sites reviewed had coverage rates ranging between 89-61%; while a mere 9% were below 60%. What a difference quality assurance can make!!

The QA/AFIX Team is already off to a productive start for 2008, conducting site visits to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to ACIP guidelines, as well as adhering to VFC Program Guidelines. The QA/AFIX Team is always willing to assist you in arranging an appointment for a site visit to benefit your facility.

Site visits provide valuable information to providers on their immunization practice patterns and immunization rates. Each visit is designed to help identify possible barriers to immunization that may result in low vaccination coverage or missed opportunities for immunization. The primary role of the QA/AFIX Team is to assist providers in finding practical solutions to immunization related dilemmas within their facilities.

The QA/AFIX team would like to thank the following providers and their staffs for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process during this past quarter:

Southwest General Hospital, Dr. Graciela Moreno, Dr. Ruiz-Healy, Dullnig House, CentroMed-Dwyer Clinic, Family Clinics of San Antonio, University Health System-Pediatric Inpatient, Christus Santa Rosa Healthcare-Pharmacy, Dr. Hugo Muzza, Barlite Medical Clinic, University Physicians Group Family Healthcare Center, Jefferson Family Practice, Dr. Galarneau-Castroville, Thousand Oaks Pediatrics, Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic-CentroMed, Kellum Medical Group-Schertz, Dr. Migdalia Molina, Medical Doctors Office, Dr. Kesavulu, Saint Raphael Family Focused Medicine, Dr. Escalante, Express Med Clinic-University Health System, Dr. Garcia, South Alamo Medical Group, Generations Family Medicine, CentroMed South Park Medical Care Center, Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach, Clinica del Norte-Pediatrics, Women and Children's Facility (formerly Office of Dr. Cynthia Villarreal), and Central Women's Healthcare.

Congratulations to the following providers that achieved outstanding immunization coverage rates this quarter: Medical Doctors Office (100%),

Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic-CentroMed (100%), Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach (100%), CentroMed South Park Medical Care Center (100%), Women and Children's Facility (formerly Office of Dr. Cynthia Villarreal) (100%), Clinica del Norte-Pediatrics (91%), Thousand Oaks Pediatrics (89%), and Generations Family Medicine (80%). These facilities worked proactively to ensure that over 80% of the children seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3Hep B, and 1 Var by 24 months of age. All of these facilities invested substantial efforts towards improving children's immunization coverage levels within their practices. Keep up the great work!!

Special congratulations go out to the Medical Doctors Office, Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic-CentroMed, Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach, CentroMed South Park Medical Care Center, and Women and Children's Facility (formerly Office of Dr. Cynthia Villarreal). These facilities surpassed the National Immunization Program (NIP) goal of 90% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, receiving a perfect score of 100%. In fact, this is the fourth consecutive year that CentroMed South Park Medical Care Center has received a perfect score! This is the second year that Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach has received a perfect score. Immunizing on time is definitely a top priority for these offices whose pictures appear on the next page, congratulations!!

We would like to once again Thank our VFC providers for your outstanding dedication and commitment toward keeping the children in our community healthy. Your continued participation in our VFC Program is sincerely appreciated, we commend you all for the excellent work you do!!

### City Holiday Calendar

*Fiesta San Jacinto Day  
Friday, April 25, 2008*

*Memorial Day  
Monday, May 26, 2008*



### Immunization Resource Sites

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP):** [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

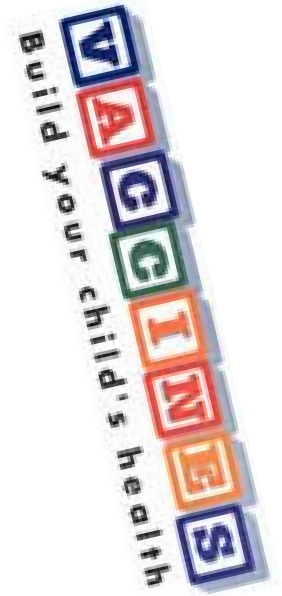
**Immunization Action Coalition (IAC):**  
[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health District:**  
[www.sanantonio.gov/health](http://www.sanantonio.gov/health)

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):**  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize)



Women and Children's Facility-  
Dr. Cynthia Villarreal



Centro Med South Park  
Medical Care Center-  
Zarzamora



Dr. Fernando  
Guerra



Priority  
Pediatrics



Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach



**Immunization Program Contacts-Call Us For All Your Immunization Questions!**

Director Of Health: Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH	207-8730	Immunization Program Manager: Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-8794
CDC Public Health Advisor: Thomas Finke, MPA	207-2870	Clinical Operations Supervisor: Dina Guillen, RN	207-8804
Education-Outreach-WIC Coordinator: Clark Petty	207-2869	Vaccines for Children Coordinator: Vivian B. Flores, MA	207-2868
Vaccine Studies Coordinator: Marcela Martinez	207-3968	Registry/Info. Systems Coordinator: Walter Widish, MS	207-8792
Hepatitis B & Rubella Program: Tom Gonzalez, MLT	207-2088	QA/AFIX Program Supervisor: Kenya Wilson, MA	207-3974
Consumer Education: Gloria Johnson, LVN	207-6917	Vaccines for Children Supervisor: Wilma Camacho, MPH	207-2862
Adult Program Supervisor: Sandra Hermosa, LMSW	207-2084	Foreign Travel: Matthew Whitson, RN	207-8872
Vaccine Management: Anthony Johnson	207-4015	WIC Linkage Supervisor: Miryam Pacheco-Gregory	207-2865