



San Antonio Immunization Program Newsletter - March 2019

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ROUTINELY RECOMMEND CANCER PREVENTION

Your HPV Vaccine Recommendation Counts!

The Journal of Pediatrics has published a new article, "Association of provider recommendation and HPV vaccination initiation among male adolescents aged 13-17 years – United States." This is the first assessment of state-specific human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination among male adolescents aged 13-17 years by provider recommendation. In this article, the 2011-2016 National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) data were used to assess HPV vaccination coverage among male adolescents whose medical providers recommended they receive the vaccine. Overall this article found that a provider's recommendation for this vaccination is an important approach to increasing vaccination coverage. (Source: NACCHO)

As the graph below shows, there is a substantial increase in HPV vaccination coverage when the vaccine is recommended by the provider. Presenting the HPV vaccine as an available, safe, and recommended means of cancer prevention can significantly decrease missed opportunities and increase coverage rates among your patients as well as statewide. Recommending HPV vaccine the "Same Way, Same Day" as other immunizations can mean the difference for a parent or patient who is eligible for the HPV vaccine series. For a range of clinician resources for HPV vaccine recommendation and patient education, [visit the CDC's HPV resource center here](#). To read the full study on how your recommendation affects HPV vaccine uptake, [click here for the NACCHO website](#).

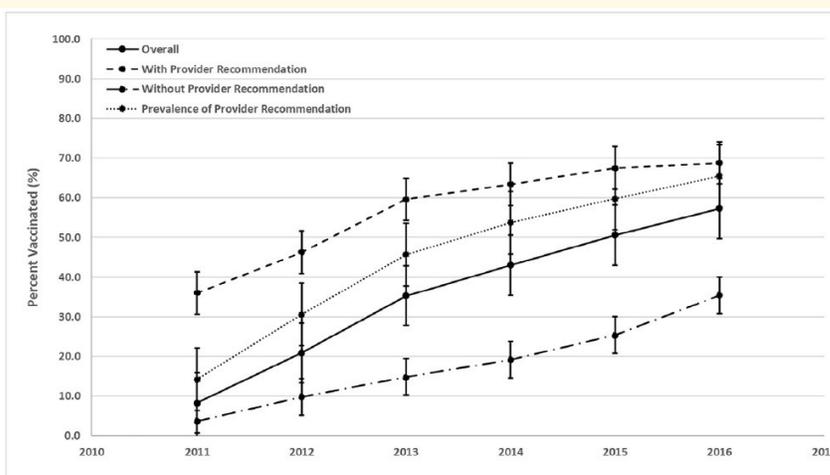


Figure. HPV vaccination coverage and prevalence of provider recommendation among male adolescents 13-17 years, United States, 2011-2016. Source: National Immunization Survey-Teen, 2011-2016.

"A provider's recommendation for this vaccination is an important approach to increasing vaccination coverage."

- National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Vaccine Storage and Handling



New Staff Update

Welcome Our New VFC Coordinator

We are excited to announce that Lynna Agado joined the Immunization Program as our new VFC Coordinator on Monday, March 4. Lynna comes from El Buen Samaritano clinic in Austin with extensive experience managing an integrated health care clinic and serving as the TVFC coordinator for the clinic. Previously, she worked at the Brownsville Community Health Center for four years with increasing levels of responsibility.

Feel free to contact her with VFC or ASN questions at Lynna.Agado@sanantonio.gov or (210) 207-3965.



Temperature Matters!

Lessons From Recent Mishaps

Imagine going in to your site one morning and hearing the news: your team will have to revaccinate all patients who had immunization appointments in the past year. There are emails, phone calls and visits from DSHS, CDC, three local news channels and the Express-News, all asking for a statement and explanation.

This scenario has become a reality for several providers of vaccinations nationwide recently, and in every instance the cause was the same: poor vaccine handling and storage.

Last month, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services issued a statement advising citizens to seek medical attention and revaccination after they discovered a provider using Hepatitis B vaccines that had been improperly stored, causing infections in many cases. The provider had administered the vaccine at 22 sites in three states.

In the past 13 months, over 100 children at a clinic in Oklahoma City received doses of three different vaccines that were potentially compromised due to improper storage. A similar incident with flu vaccine was reported at Walgreen's in Indianapolis in January, affecting 1,600 patients due to a faulty refrigerator. And in October 2017, the Ventura County (CA) Health Care Agency sent notice to patients that they would need to be revaccinated due to improper vaccine storage during transport. They identified over 23,000 patients that were affected. These examples serve as a reminder of why the VFC expanded requirements for vaccine handling, storage, and monitoring in 2018. Accurate and consistent temperature logging, equipment maintenance, and proper reporting can prevent vaccine loss or other adverse events from happening. Keep in mind, even one ineffective or mishandled vaccine administered improperly can outweigh hundreds of textbook vaccination encounters if it compromises patient safety. In the current climate of skepticism and misinformation about immunizations, such an incident could harm community and public health overall – not just a single patient.

For more information about mishandled vaccines, read [this article from KHN](#).

Remember, the [updated CDC VFC Toolkit is always available](#) online as a reference for proper vaccine storage and handling procedures.

New Study: No MMR - Autism Link

Much larger study released this month confirms earlier research

There's strong new evidence that a common childhood vaccine is safe.

A large study released March 4th finds no evidence that the vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella increases the risk of autism. The study of children born in Denmark is one of the largest ever of the MMR vaccine.

"The study strongly supports that MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism," the authors write in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. "We believe our results offer reassurance and provide reliable data."

The study's first author, epidemiologist Anders Hviid of the Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen, added in an email: "MMR does not cause autism."

In the study, researchers analyzed data collected from all children born in Denmark to Danish-born mothers between 1999 and 2010. Among the 657,461 children included in the analysis, 6,517 were diagnosed with autism over the next decade. But there was no overall increased risk for the developmental disorder among those who received the MMR vaccine when compared with those who had not gotten the vaccine, the researchers found.

The researchers also found no increased risk among subgroups of children who might be unusually susceptible to autism, such as those with a brother or sister with the disorder. The researchers noted that the study is a follow-up to a similar, large study they conducted in 2002 that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. That study involved 537,000 Danish children.



"We felt that it was time to revisit the link in a larger cohort with more follow-up which also allowed for more comprehensive analyses of different claims such as the idea that MMR causes autism in susceptible children."

"The idea that vaccines cause autism is still around despite our original and other well-conducted studies," Hviid wrote in an email. "Parents still encounter these claims on social media, by politicians, by celebrities, et cetera. We felt that it was time to revisit the link in a larger cohort with more follow-up which also allowed for more comprehensive analyses of different claims such as the idea that MMR causes autism in susceptible children."

Other researchers agree the study provides powerful new evidence supporting the safety of the vaccine. In an editorial accompanying the study, Dr. Saad Omer and Dr. Inci Yildirim of Emory University write that studies like this can help doctors refute unfounded claims and fears. "Physicians should do what they do best. They should follow the emerging evidence – including that in vaccine communication science – and use it in their interactions with their patients and as public health advocates," Omer wrote in an email.

Hviid hopes the findings will reassure parents. "Parents should not avoid vaccinating their children for fear of autism," Hviid wrote. (Source: NPR)

To access a summary and full text of the study, [visit the American College of Physicians website here.](#)

TVFC Program & Inventory Updates

News from Texas Vaccines for Children and Vaccine Management

- As of February 26th, TVFC no longer requires participating providers to stock one or more doses of pediatric DT, pediatric Td and pediatric PPSV23 vaccines. For more information, visit [the DSHS website](#).
- Due to the allocation of VFC Hep B ENGERIX products being exhausted, the vaccine may be replaced with Hep B Recombivax. For more information, Anna Ledezma, TVFC Vaccine Management Supervisor. She may be reached at anna.ledezma@sanantonio.gov or (210) 207-4308.

State of the ImmUnion



Vaccinate Your Family: The Next Generation of Every Child By Two (VYF) is pleased to release their third annual [State of the ImmUnion \(SOTI\) report](#). The 2019 report examines how strong our defenses truly are against vaccine-preventable diseases and what we can do, as public health advocates and legislators, to make our country stronger and more resilient in the face of disease outbreaks and other emerging health threats. VYF also prepared a template fact sheet for the sharing of state-level data and prepared sample media posts. If you are able to complete a fact sheet or media post, please share with Erica DeWald at VYF at erica@vaccineyourfamily.org.

March IZSA Updates

Building new foundations

The IZSA Coalition held its second meeting on March 6, 2019. There were many new members in attendance, which brought new ideas and perspectives to the group. IZSA is currently in the process of writing the bylaws and elected position role descriptions. A great discussion took place when brainstorming new coalition goal ideas, giving us a long list to choose from. Goals and bylaws will be voted on and finalized at the next meeting, so if you are interested in participating, April will be a great time to join! April's IZSA meeting will take place on April 3, 2019 from 1pm-2pm.

Please contact Sarah Williams at 210-207-6917 or sarah.williams@sanantonio.gov if you have any questions or would like to be included in our member e-mail list.

Providers: CME Opportunities from CDC

Continuing Medical Education (CME) training still available: ["Making the Case, Championing for HPV Cancer Prevention in Your Practice."](#) This new CME is designed to educate clinicians about current HPV vaccine recommendations, best practices for effectively recommending HPV vaccination and addressing questions from parents of age-appropriate boys and girls, and strategies to foster team wide collaboration to increase HPV vaccination coverage in their practices. You can access this CME opportunity at the link above with a Medscape account.

Additionally, "Routinely Recommending Cancer Prevention" is available on-demand for CE credits [on the CDC website](#) through January 16, 2020. This course develops methods to more effectively recommend HPV vaccinations for adolescents.

FDA Approves 6-in-1 Infant Vaccine

AUSTIN (KXAN) — One less shot and maybe fewer tears is what a new vaccine promises. The FDA approved a new combination vaccine called Vaxelis designed for children ages six weeks to 4-years-old. The FDA says it keeps them from contracting diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B and invasive disease due to haemophilus influenzae type B.

Right now infants get three shots to protect them against the six diseases, but with the new vaccine, there will be fewer shots.

"You're getting vaccinated sooner and more effectively at a younger age and hopefully it will be more widely available to everyone, and you're not going to miss vaccines," explained Dr. Brian Temple with Beansprout Pediatrics in Bee Cave. "When you have multiple different shots there are errors so it's nice to have it all in one." Krystal Small brought her baby boy in to be checked out after a cough. She will be back for Jack's round of vaccines in a few days.

"I would want to know... you know is there any adverse reactions that could happen - you know especially when they're so - so little," said Small. "You do get nervous, but I also want to protect... I think the alternative is way worse."

Dr. Temple said if parents have any concerns they should talk to their pediatrician.

"The amount will not affect a baby or a child's immune system. Our bodies can handle it and they handle it very well," Temple said.

Although Vaxelis is not yet approved by the Advisory Council on Immunization Practice (ACIP), you can find out more by visiting [the FDA vaccine website](#).

Introducing Your Metro Health HPV/Adolescent AFIX Team



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12 years of Supervisory Experience

Got a Story? Let Us Know!

Do you have an inspiring story, technical tip, lesson learned, or someone you want to highlight for recognition? Let us know, and we might feature your item in the next issue of Shot Talk. Contact Jared Dugger at (210) 207-2870 or jared.dugger@sanantonio.gov for more information.