

Idaho Immunization Coalition

Quarterly Newsletter

July – September 2012



A Message from IIC's Co-Chairs

We want to provide the Idaho Immunization Coalition with an update to our progress and next steps. This year has been very exciting and action-packed. Since the beginning of 2012 our membership has grown to over 130 members. Coalition members have been spotted all over the state including Coeur d' Alene, Idaho Falls, Nampa, Caldwell, Post Falls, and Boise attending Shot Smarts, Booster Shots, fairs, and local coalition events. Two grants have been written and submitted to raise funds for future efforts. We have secured grant funding from the State Immunization Program to support a part time Executive Director of the IIC. And lastly we are ready to start three committees to help in the following areas: activities coordination, communication, and legislative and policy action. See page 2 for more details.

One of our planned activities is a statewide meningitis campaign. We have secured several thousand doses of meningitis vaccine to be given to college students 17-30 years of age. We are also working on creating a media campaign, and preparing for the 2013 legislative session.

Please think about how you would like to be involved, and get in touch!

Sincerely,

Pamela Strohfus, DNP & Tom Patterson, MD
IIC Co-Chairs

Wanted: Executive Director

The Idaho Immunization Coalition seeks a part-time Executive Director to manage day-to-day operations and to provide strategic direction and leadership. If you or someone you know is interested, email idahoimmune@gmail.com for more details, a position description, and how to apply.

**PROMOTE IMMUNIZATIONS.
PREVENT DISEASE.
PROTECT IDAHO.**

In this issue:

- Join in! IIC Committees are getting into gear.
- National Immunization Survey results for young children and adolescents
- Upcoming immunization events
- Guidelines for flu vaccine dosing

Idaho Immunization Coalition
6618 Cleveland Blvd., Suite B
Caldwell, ID 83607

www.idahoimmune.com

idahoimmune@gmail.com

(208) 334-5996

Get Involved!

IIC Committees are Up and Running

Whatever your particular interest and skills, there is a place for you to get involved in IIC work. Groups are currently forming to address three priority areas below:

Activity Coordination Committee:

- Plan IIC participation in community events
- Coordinate volunteers
- Support local coalition and public health districts to immunize and provide information
- Develop community partnerships and coordinate efforts statewide

Major projects include a meningitis vaccination campaign targeting university students, National Infant Immunization Week events, and participation in state and local fairs.

Legislative/Policy Committee:

- Prepare and provide testimony and education on legislative issues related to immunization
- Support community and workplace policies supportive of immunization

Major projects include preparing for the 2013 legislative session, such as collecting evidence regarding the impact of Idaho's Immunization Assessment Board, which is scheduled to sunset in 2013.

Communication Committee:

- Keep Coalition members and partners up-to-date on immunization news
- Create and distribute educational materials for healthcare providers and the public
- Produce the IIC newsletter, weekly emails, website, and a social media presence

Major projects include working with local media partners to communicate about immunizations, developing IIC's communication plan, and starting up an IIC Facebook and Twitter presence.

How do I get involved?

Email idahoimmune@gmail.com. Quarterly virtual committee meetings will start this autumn.

Flu Vaccine for Healthcare Providers

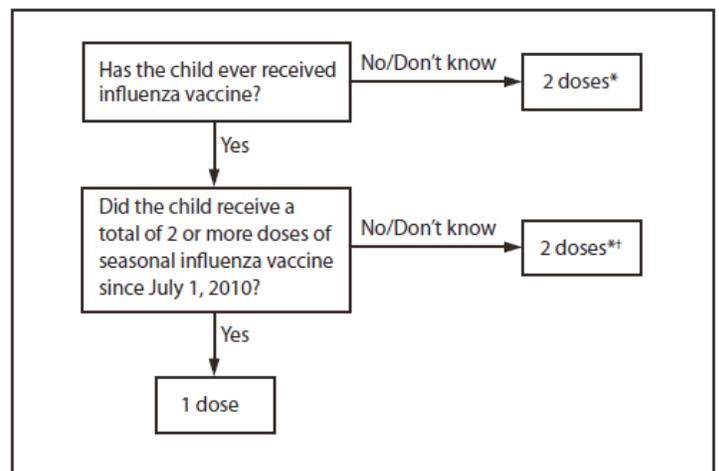
Are you a healthcare provider (HCP)? Does your organization promote influenza vaccination for all employees? Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your patients from the flu, yet in 2010 only 63.5% of HCPs were vaccinated. How does your organization compare? Could you help to enact policies encouraging flu vaccination?

This season, acute care hospitals participating in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program are required to begin reporting influenza vaccination rates among employees :

http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/hps_Vacc.html.

Pediatric Flu Vaccine Dosing 2012-13

Guidelines for pediatric influenza vaccine dosing have changed since last flu season. Take a look at the CDC algorithm below (from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6132a3.htm>) to determine whether a child aged 6 months through 8 years will need one or two doses of this year's vaccine.



* Doses should be administered at least 4 weeks apart.

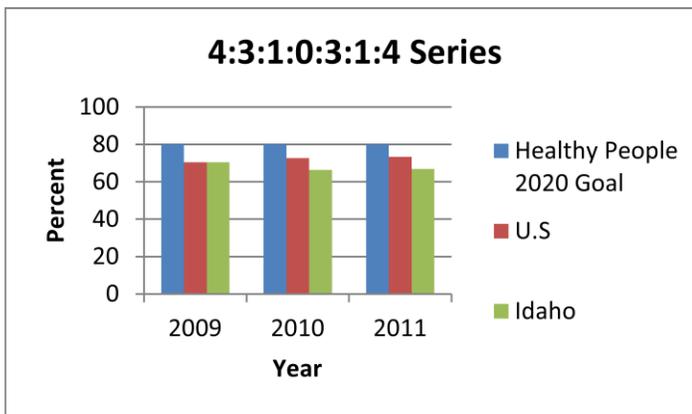
† For simplicity, this algorithm takes into consideration only doses of seasonal influenza vaccine received since July 1, 2010. See the full MMWR at the link above for further guidelines for settings where vaccination history from before July 1, 2010 is available.



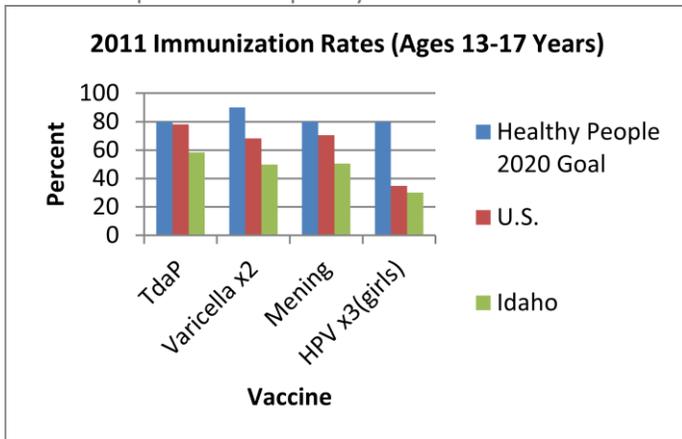
Immunization News

National Immunization Rates: How Are We Doing?

Since 1994, the National Immunization Survey (NIS) has provided important statistics about childhood immunizations. The NIS, conducted by the CDC, is a random-digit-dialing telephone survey followed by a mailed survey to participants' immunization providers. The 2011 NIS data was recently released by the CDC. Idaho's early childhood rates fall below the national average and the Healthy People 2020 Goals.



Idaho's immunization rates for teens (ages 13-17 years) also lag behind the national average, but did show positive trends compared to the prior year.



Vaccines are some of the most cost effective preventive health measures available. Let's continue to work together to protect all Idahoans from vaccine preventable disease.



Need a reminder on immunization techniques? Do you have new immunization staff to bring up to speed? Check out these great training videos from the California Immunization Program: <http://eziz.org/eziz-training/>

Idaho wins 5th place nationwide in Meningitis Communication Campaign

The "Voices of Meningitis Challenge" is a project of the National Association of School Nurses. The challenge encourages communities, schools, and school nurses to raise awareness about meningococcal disease and vaccination.

Idaho is currently in 5th place nationwide in terms of participation in the challenge (only Virginia, Delaware, Wyoming, and South Dakota are ahead of us!).

More importantly, Idaho school nurses are creating unique, powerful ways to share the importance of immunization for meningococcal disease. The campaign brings together school nurses from across the country, along with families personally affected by meningococcal meningitis, to share their personal experiences and give "voice" to this rare, but devastating disease, and encourage families to seek vaccination.

What could you do in your community, school, or clinic, to promote vaccination?

<http://www.voicesofmeningitis.org/>

<http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/Immunizations/VoicesofMeningitisChallenge>

Upcoming Immunization Events

- School Immunization Reports due November 1st
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/Immunizations/SchoolImmunizations/tabid/885/Default.aspx>
- Vaccine Update Webinar Series—Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center
Starts November 14th
<http://www.chop.edu/professionals/vaccine-healthcare-providers/vaccine-webinar-series/vaccine-webinar-series.html>
- National Influenza Vaccination Week December 2-8
- Volunteer to provide immunization information:
Early Years Conference, Boise November 13-14

Boise State University Health Fair—“Health is Contagious” November 13

To sign up: email idahoimmune@gmail.com

In Case You Missed It: Immunization in the News

Parents of children in private schools are more likely to exempt their kids from vaccines than public school parents:
<http://healthland.time.com/2012/09/10/private-school-parents-are-more-likely-to-opt-out-of-vaccines/>

Boise Pediatrician interviewed on the importance of vaccines (video):
<http://www.ktvb.com/on-tv/viewpoint/Boise-pediatrician-Dr-Robert-Lindsay-speaks-about-importance-of-childhood-vaccines-162530376.html>

Vaccines, healthcare reform, and Medicare:
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/09/11/160942994/more-vaccines-come-without-copays-unless-you-re-on-medicare>

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