

# Idaho Immunization Coalition

Quarterly Newsletter

July–September 2013



## 2013 Immunization Summit

The 2013 Immunization Summit: **Better Together—Building Partnerships to Promote Immunization** is coming up, and is full to capacity! This year's Summit will spotlight the power of partnership to promote immunization. We can do more together than we can by ourselves.

The Summit will feature information about local and statewide coalition activities, opportunities to network with peers, and an exciting line-up of nationally-renowned speakers presenting the latest in immunization news and updates:

**Dr. William Atkinson**, of the Immunization Action Coalition (formerly of the CDC), will discuss new recommendations & vaccines, and will provide strategies for dealing with vaccine hesitancy in the clinic.

**Anna Dragsbaek, JD**, President and CEO of the Houston Immunization Partnership, will tell Houston's story and will inspire us to action by providing tips and tools for creating local coalitions and partnerships.

**Dr. Tom Patterson**, a pediatrician with the Saltzer Medical Group in Nampa, Idaho, will provide insight about immunization challenges in the clinic and how to overcome them.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Nursing Education (CNE/CEU) credits are available.

**The Summit is at capacity, but web conferencing is available. Contact [kjs@idahoimmune.org](mailto:kjs@idahoimmune.org) if you would like to be added to the web conference, or to be put on the waiting list to attend in person.**

The Ada Canyon Medical Education Consortium is accredited by the Idaho Medical Association and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Ada Canyon Medical Education Consortium designates this live offering for a maximum of 4.75 AMA PRA Category 1 credit TM(s). Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

St. Luke's Health System is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Washington State Nurses Association Continuing Education Approval & Recognition Program (WSNA CEARP), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Upon successful completion, 3.1 CNE contact hours will be provided.

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- **Jenny McCarthy on the View: What does it mean for immunization advocates?**

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

Idaho Immunization Coalition

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## Back to School: Is Your Child Ready?

By IIC Summer Intern Nathan Diehl

As you begin to prepare for the first day of school you're probably getting lunches ready, making sure that everyone gets to bed at a reasonable hour, and wondering why your son or daughter has changed their first day of school outfit so many times. As all of this whirls around in the chaos that is the week before school, you should be asking yourself, are my children up to date on their shots?

As a parent, you view schools as germ-filled breeding grounds, and rightfully so. Kids do get sick, but immunizations can prevent illness and prevent the spread of illness.. In Idaho there are requirements for children depending on their age for what shots they need.

There are requirements, but there are also exemptions. "Idaho law allows a parent/guardian to claim an exemption from immunization requirements for their child for medical, religious, or personal reasons" ([healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)).

There are medical reasons to exempt your child from a shot, though the need to exempt is rare, and if a child has medical complications from a particular shot it's still a good idea to keep them up to date on the other shots required. Check with your medical provider if you think your child should be exempted for medical reasons. Parents might be afraid that immunizations will be expensive, but in Idaho we are covered by the Federal Vaccines for Children Program. This program helps kids get immunizations who are covered with Medicaid or who are uninsured. While there may be an administration fee, vaccines are available to all children under the age of 19.

Children in the state of Idaho can be denied school attendance if they are behind on their shots. So as summer comes to an end, schedule an appointment with a physician; create time between sports and summer fun to protect your child from preventable illnesses. And if you are considering exempting your children from immunization, consult with a professional and make sure you get all of the information before making your decision.

Required vaccines (more info at [www.immunizeidahoschools.com](http://www.immunizeidahoschools.com)):

Born 1999-2005	Born after 2005	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade
(4) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) (1) Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) (3) Polio (3) Hepatitis B	(5) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) (2) Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) (4) Polio (3) Hepatitis B (2) Varicella (Chickenpox) (2) Hepatitis A	(1) Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) (1) Meningococcal



## Get Ready for Flu Season 2013-2014

- Healthcare providers should begin offering vaccination as soon as vaccine becomes available.
- Influenza vaccine is recommended for all persons 6 months of age and older on an annual basis.
- This season's vaccine is different from last year's. The B virus strain is different. The 2013–14 vaccine contains these strains:
  - *A/California/7/2009* (H1N1)-like virus,
  - H3N2 virus similar to *A/Victoria/361/2011*,
  - *A/B/Massachusetts/2/2012*-like virus.
  - Quadrivalent vaccines also include a *B/Brisbane/60/2008*-like virus.
- Vaccines available from the IIP for children under 19 include FluMist, Fluzone, Fluarix, and Fluvirin.
- CDC's 2013–14 Flu Vaccine Recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2013-summary-recommendations.htm>

The IIC, together with Southwest District Health, Central District Health Department, South Central Public Health District, local elementary schools, Meridian Pediatrics, and MedImmune plan to provide live attenuated flu vaccine (FluMist) to school-age children. The IIC estimates that approximately **5,000 youth aged 5 to 18 years old will receive the FluMist vaccine** through this initiative. The pilot programs will run mid-September through October 2013.

Immunizing children is a great way to protect entire communities from flu; computer modeling shows that immunizing 20 percent of children in a community is more effective at protecting those older than 65 than immunizing 90 percent of the elderly

Contact Karen Sharpnack with questions, or if you'd like to get involved [kjs@idahoimmune.org](mailto:kjs@idahoimmune.org).

## Jenny McCarthy on *The View*: Bad News for Immunization Advocates?

By Pam Strohfus, DNP, Idaho Immunization Coalition Co-Chair

How does a Playboy Playmate of the year in 1993 rise to being a spokesperson on vaccines? Having a son diagnosed with autism, publishing several books on autism and the purported after-effects of vaccines, and being invited to tell her story on Oprah and 20/20 have brought Jenny McCarthy to a new stage, that of being one of the hosts on *The View*, a daytime talk show. The panel of co-hosts includes Sherri Shepherd, Whoopi Goldberg, and the executive producer Barbara Walters. In its 16<sup>th</sup> season, the talk show has the 4<sup>th</sup> longest record of a daytime talk show, and is undoubtedly popular. However, the decision to include Jenny McCarthy as a host has been highly controversial.

McCarthy's anti-vaccination views are of public knowledge, and have gained a lot of traction, but her views have also been discredited by evidence-based research. Unfortunately, promoting her to a venue with tremendous visibility can only impair decades of efforts to protect our population from preventable disease through vaccination.

Vaccination is one of the most beneficial public health efforts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We know vaccines save lives, including those who are unable to be vaccinated through "herd immunity." Discrediting the value of vaccines through a greater recognition of the anti-vaccine viewpoint, such as by giving Jenny McCarthy a platform hosting *The View*, we become vulnerable to increasing numbers of unvaccinated people.

The Idaho Immunization Coalition supports vaccinations and protecting Idahoans from preventable diseases. We would like to recommend alternative viewing of television instead of *The View*. Even better, select another activity, such as walking, playing sports, enjoying family activities, etc. These alternative activities will contribute to a healthier life, much the same as vaccinations.



## HPV Vaccine is Safe, but It's Still Not Reaching Many Teen Girls

In late July, CDC released a report on coverage and post-licensure safety data of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Although coverage of HPV vaccine among adolescents increased from 2007 to 2011, no increase was observed in 2012.

In 2012, only 53.8% of girls age 11 to 18 had received one or more doses of HPV vaccine, and only 33.4% had received all three doses. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the 3-dose series for girls at age 11 or 12 years old since 2006.

Missed opportunities for HPV vaccination exist; if HPV vaccine had been administered during healthcare visits when other vaccines were provided, coverage for one dose of HPV vaccine could have been 92.6%.

Meanwhile, safety data continue to indicate that the HPV vaccine is safe. More than a million doses of HPV vaccine were distributed in the US between June 2006 and March 2013. A total of 21,194 adverse events were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System during that time; 92.1% of these were considered nonserious. The most common events were fainting, dizziness, nausea, and headache.

Approximately 79 million people in the US are infected with HPV, and 14 million will become infected each year. HPV can cause genital warts, cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, oropharyngeal, and anal cancers. About 26,200 cancers each year are attributable to HPV infections.

Source: Immunization Action Coalition IAC Express #1069, CDC MMWR July 26, 2013.

# Upcoming Immunization Events

## Vaccine Update Webinars—Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Paul Offit

November 13, 10am–11am (Mountain Time): “Current Issues in Vaccines”  
[www.vaccine.chop.edu/webinars](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu/webinars)

## CDC Current Issues in Immunization NetConference (CIINC)

November 14, 10am–11am (Mountain Time), Dr. Andrew Kroger (Topic TBD)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/>

## Not yet a member of the Idaho Immunization Coalition? Join Today!

Get quarterly newsletters, important immunization updates, and hear about opportunities to volunteer, get involved, and help the IIC to promote immunization protection of all Idahoans.

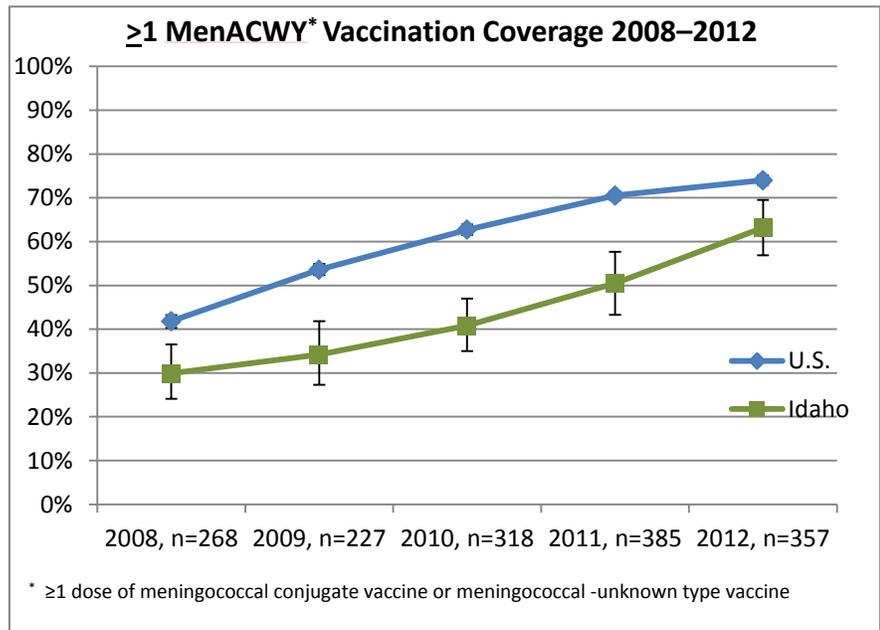
Sign up at [www.idahoimmune.org](http://www.idahoimmune.org). Questions? Contact Karen Sharpnack [kjs@idahoimmune.org](mailto:kjs@idahoimmune.org).

## 2012 National Immunization Survey–Teen Results: How does Idaho Compare?

The annual National Immunization Survey–Teen (NIS-Teen) estimates vaccination coverage among adolescents age 13–17. Results for 2012 coverage were released in August.

Idaho coverage with one or more doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) increased 12.7%, to 63.2%, from 2011 to 2012, which was a statistically significant increase. This is the second year in a row that Idaho demonstrated a significant increase in meningococcal vaccine coverage. This survey measures coverage among a different population than targeted by IIC’s meningococcal campaign. However, efforts across the states, including the change in school immunization rules, might have contributed to the increase in coverage.

For the four other vaccines measured by NIS Teen, Idaho showed no significant change in coverage from 2011 to 2012.



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