

Idaho Immunization Coalition



Meningitis Campaign Free Vaccine For College Students

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Health student nurses are currently planning several venues throughout this year and throughout the state of Idaho. Our supporters and sponsors include the Idaho State Board of Education, University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, North Idaho College, Northwest Nazarene University, College of Idaho, local immunization coalition and agencies.

Did you know that college students are at higher risk for contracting meningococcal meningitis? This disease progresses so rapidly that it can lead to death within 24 hours from the first onset of symptoms. Idaho does not require vaccines upon entry into college.

Meningitis Clinics Scheduled at Lewis Clark, BSU, NNU—More to come!

<p>Boise State Dates/Locations/Times March 19 Keiser Hall 8am–5pm Johnson Room Noon–4pm April 2 Johnson Room 8am–5pm April 9 Rec. Center</p>	<p>Lewis-Clark College Dates March 21 Location SUB Time 9 am to 2 pm</p>	<p>Northwest Nazarene University Dates June 15 July 18 August 23 Locations/Times To Be Announced</p>	<p>Meningitis Campaign Contact Person(s): Pam Strohfus at pam-strohfus@boisestate.edu Or Sherry Sweikert-Smith at sesweikert@lcsc.edu To volunteer: Karenjsharpnack@yahoo.com</p>
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Stop Transmission of Polio: My Work with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in the Philippines

By ANNA TALMAN, Public Health Prevention Service Fellow – Idaho Immunization Coalition

“Is polio still around? Didn’t we already eradicate polio? You mean, the one that paralyzed F.D.R? That?” These are the kinds of questions my friends, family, and colleagues asked of me when I announced that I was planning to travel to the Philippines for three months to work on polio eradication. Polio feels like a relic; it’s not one of the diseases we in the US think about all that much. Didn’t we already take care of that one? Indeed, the global community has made great strides in eliminating this debilitating disease, with a more than 99% reduction in cases since 1988, but there is still a long way to go. Polio is still endemic in three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria), and a number of other nations are at risk of imported

cases and subsequent localized outbreaks. A global initiative backed by governments, the World Health Organization, and a number of private foundations is underway. Among global immunization priorities, this one looms large. We could save thousands of lives—and millions of dollars—by eradicating this disease. And eradication is one of the best examples of equitable health services; even the very poorest and most underserved benefit from the disease’s disappearance. But it’s a massive effort, requiring hundreds of thousands of people and billions of dollars to finish the job. That’s how I ended up here in Manila, as a World Health Organization’s STOP (Stop Transmission of Polio) volunteer Field Consultant.

There hasn’t been a case of polio in the US since 1979, and there hasn’t been one here in the Philippines since 1993. So why am I here? Unlike the US, Philippines is still considered at high risk for

re-established polio transmission. Population movement, pockets of very low immunization coverage, and a surveillance system that might not detect a case of polio if one were to appear means that the virus could easily sneak back through the country’s borders, the way it did in China in 2011 (dozens of cases, 2 deaths, and \$50 million in cost to the public health sector to respond to the outbreak).

I’m here in the Philippines with an international team, working closely with the country’s branch of the World Health Organization, the Department of Health, and the National Epidemiology Center here to help strengthen the country’s defenses against polio, with a bit of work on measles and routine immunization thrown in for good measure. I’ve been visiting health departments and clinics across the country, working with local healthcare provid-

ers and surveillance officers to help improve immunization coverage, to be sure that everyone has their eyes open for polio and measles, and to strengthen reporting systems for all vaccine-preventable diseases. I’ve been to urban slums, peaceful fishing villages, and throughout the mega-city of Manila (15 million people here—nearly ten times the population of Idaho!). In some ways, it couldn’t be more different from my day-to-day work in Boise. It’s been eye-opening, and I sometimes feel that I’m learning more than I am able to provide. But if my visits to these local health departments and clinics do anything, I hope that it’s to convince people of the importance of immunization. And that’s something that I’ll certainly bring home to Idaho, as well.

If you’d like to follow my work and travels over the next few months, you can follow my blog at (next page)

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Picture:
Anna Talman and
Colleagues

www.philippinesimmunization.blogspot.com.

Or STOP at <http://www.cdc.gov/polio/>

New Whooping Cough Strain May Be Cause of More Illnesses

By MIKE STOBBE

(from http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/02/06)

Researchers have discovered the first U.S. cases of whooping cough caused by a germ that may be resistant to the vaccine. Health officials are looking into whether cases like the dozen found in Philadelphia might be one reason the nation just had its worst year for whooping cough in six decades. The new bug was previously reported in Japan, France and Finland. "It's quite intriguing. It's the first time we've seen this here," said Dr. Tom Clark of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. The U.S. cases are detailed in a brief report from the CDC and other researchers in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease that can strike people of any age but is most dangerous to children. It was once common, but cases in the U.S. dropped after a vaccine was introduced in the 1940s. An increase in illnesses in recent years has been partially blamed on a version of the vaccine used since the 1990s, which doesn't last as long. Last year, the CDC received reports of

Shot Smarts Immunization Conference

- * Tuesday, May 21, 2013 @ Shilo Inn Suites, Idaho Falls
- * Wednesday, May 22, 2013 @ BSU, Boise
- * Friday, May 24, 2013 @ Best Western, Coeur d'Alene

See page 4 for more details.

"Give a Shot" Childcare Education Nights

- * Monday, May 20, 2013 @ Shilo Inn Suites, Idaho Falls, ID
6:00 – 8:30 pm
- * Wednesday, May 22, 2013 @ BSU, Boise, ID
6:00 – 8:30 pm
- * Friday, May 24, 2013 @ Panhandle Health District, Hayden, ID
6:00 – 8:30 pm

See page 4 for more details.

41,880 cases, according to a preliminary count. That included 18 deaths. The new study suggests that the new whooping cough strain may be why more people have been getting sick. Experts don't think it's more deadly, but the shots may not work as well against it. In a small, soon-to-be published study, French researchers found the vaccine seemed to lower the risk of severe disease from the new strain in infants. But it didn't prevent illness completely, said Nicole Guiso of the Pasteur Institute, one of the researchers. The new germ was first identified in France, where more extensive testing is routinely done for whooping cough. The strain now accounts for 14 percent of cases there, Guiso said. In the United States, doctors usually rely on a rapid test to help make a diagnosis. The extra lab work isn't done often enough to give health officials a good idea how common the new type is here, experts said. "We definitely need some more information about this before we can draw any conclusions," the CDC's Clark said. The U.S. cases were found in the past two years in patients at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. One of the study's researchers works for a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, which makes a version of the old whooping cough vaccine that is sold in other countries.

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We're on the Web!
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Idaho Immunization Coalition Board Vision and Mission:

Vision:

Promote Immunizations. Prevent Disease. Protect Idaho.

Mission:

The Idaho Immunization Coalition is a vital assembly of state-wide stakeholders dedicated to promoting health and preventing serious illness through immunization protection for all Idahoans

Shot Smarts & "Give it A Shot" Childcare Education Night

Shot Smarts.

The IIP will be conducting another series of regional Shot Smarts immunization conferences this May. The first will be held in Idaho Falls on the 21st, Boise on the 22nd and Coeur d'Alene on the 24th. Idaho pediatricians, family practice physicians, nurses, OB-GYNs, medical assistants, practice office staff, as well as school nurses will be invited to attend. The 2012 regional Shot Smarts con-

ferences drew over 400 Idaho health care professionals.

The 2013 keynote speakers are Dr. Kristen A. Feemster, MD MPH MSHP, and author Seth Mnookin. Dr. Feemster is an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and a staff physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"Give it A Shot"

Childcare Education Night. The Idaho Immunization Program and the Idaho Immunization Coalition will be collaborating to conduct a series of childcare education nights in May 2013. The first will be held in Idaho Falls (May 20), in Boise (May 22), and in Coeur d'Alene (May 23). Licensed childcare providers from across the state will be invited to attend. Each location will present local physicians discuss-

ing immunizations, a demonstration of IRIS (Idaho's Immunization Reminder Information System), review of Idaho's childcare immunization requirements, and sharing of valuable tips to successfully pass a childcare health inspection. We are looking for volunteers to assist with registration and helping out at the IIC booth. If interested, please contact Karen Sharpnack. karenj.sharpnack@yahoo.com

"Winning the Game of Life"

Rayna DuBose is a Virginia Tech Division I Basketball athlete who suddenly contracted Meningitis Disease. She will be presenting her story "WINNING THE GAME OF LIFE" at **Boise State University**. Please come to meet Rayna!

When: March 19, 2013

Where: Simplot Ballroom at 12:15 pm.

Who is invited? Students, Athlete's, Faculty, Staff, General

This is sponsored by the Idaho Immunization Coalition and Boise State Leadership & Community Health Student Nurses from the School of Nursing/College of Health Sciences.

Rayna Dubose
will present
**"WINNING THE
GAME OF LIFE"**
on

**March 19, 2013 at
Boise State
&**

**March 20th in the
SUB at Lewis-Clark
College**