



NEWSLETTER

VIRGINIA IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2018

Did You Know?

Charles C. Clayton Award

VIIS Staff would like to congratulate Sonja Volker, VIIS Data Quality/Business Plan Manager, on receiving a Charles C. Clayton Award from VCU's School of Medicine. This award recognizes her scholarly achievement in the Biostatistics and Clinical Research Masters Program.

Recombinant Zoster Vaccine (Shingrix) Administration Errors

The CDC published a report on vaccine administration errors involving Recombinant Zoster Vaccine. Please take the time to read this report to avoid administration errors from occurring in your practice. The complete article is located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6720a4-H.pdf>

Merck Hep B Vaccine Shortage Extended

Merck's supply of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB®) will continue to be limited for the remainder of 2018 due to a manufacturing issue. To supplement current vaccine availability, GSK will continue to make an increased amount of pediatric hepatitis B containing vaccine available, including both the single-component vaccine (Engerix-B®) and the combination vaccine (Pediatrix®).

This increase is sufficient to address the gap in supply related to Merck's manufacturing issue so that infants and young children can continue to receive their recommended hepatitis B vaccine series on time. Importantly, sufficient single-component hepatitis B vaccine will be available to continue to deliver the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine for infants.

VIIS and Hearing Screening Trainings

Providers can access the hearing screening report for their infant patients in VIIS. If you are a Pediatric or Family Practice, LHD or Community Health Center you can access these reports. ***See page 2 for more information....**

VIIS Registration & Training

Are you in need of VIIS training or know a provider/school who wants access?
Contact a VIIS Consultant at (804) 864-8055 or
viisinfo@vdh.virginia.gov

To register, please visit the link below:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/verip>

What's New...

Virginia's 2018 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award Recipient

VIIS staff would like to congratulate Virginia's 2018 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion, Dr. Cyrelida Fermin from Infant, Child, and Adolescent Clinic, Inc in Alexandria, Virginia. Dr. Fermin was nominated for her dedication to high quality care in her practice and community.

As a solo practitioner in a pediatric clinic serving children of transient families, Dr. Fermin works hard to provide high-quality well-child and immunization services. Because of her caring and compassionate nature, she has become known in her community as an outstanding pediatrician.

Dr. Fermin excels at communicating with parents about vaccines. A native of the Philippines, she is fluent in English, Spanish, and Filipino. Dr. Fermin starts having conversations with parents in the hospital nursery and continues them at every well-child visit. She takes time to explain what will happen at the current visit and the next visit and strongly encourages parents to ask questions. Dr. Fermin's approachable manner makes parents feel at ease and gives them confidence in their children's care.

As a Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider, Dr. Fermin has a remarkable history of adhering to CDC requirements and best practices for vaccine storage, handling, and safety. She has received certificates of recognition from the Virginia VFC Program for 7 years, most recently in 2017. Dr. Fermin is also an active partner with the Fairfax County Health Department where she works with Head Start, the Infant-Toddler Connection, and Fairfax County Schools to ensure children are up to date on immunizations.

Nominees were selected and judged based on leadership, collaboration, innovation and advocacy. For more information on this award, click the link below:

[CDC 2018 Childhood Immunization
Champion Award](#)



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VIIS and the Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Collaboration

All newborns born in the state of Virginia are required by law to receive a newborn hearing screen prior to discharge from the hospital. In 2016, the hearing screening rate in Virginia was 99.2%. The Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program monitors the newborn hearing screening of all babies born within the state of Virginia, as well as hearing re-screening and diagnostic records for all infants from birth to 36 months of age that reside in the state of Virginia. This information is maintained in an online database called the Virginia Infant Screening and Infant Tracking System (VISITS).

The hearing screening test is performed on all newborns shortly after birth. It is the first step in a process designed to identify children with hearing loss as early as possible, to ensure that all newborns can benefit from interventions that will help them develop to their full potential. Language development is largely dependent on hearing and begins very early in a child's life. Re-screening a newborn prior to 1 month of age and diagnosing a hearing loss prior to 3 months of age is important in providing the child with appropriate resources in a timely manner. These resources will help children achieve their best linguistic and literacy abilities, and improve their chances for educational success.

In order to ensure appropriate and timely follow-up hearing rescreens, the Virginia EHDI program has collaborated with the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS), to allow the child's Primary Care Provider (PCP) easy access to view the newborn hearing screening results. The Virginia EHDI program and VIIS are scheduling site visits and/or GoTo meetings with PCP offices to provide training and education to view the screening results and discuss recommendations for children in need of rescreening. If a child fails or misses the newborn hearing screening in the hospital, as the PCP, you can make an audiology referral to ensure the child has a hearing rescreen or diagnostic evaluation performed. For a list of preferred audiology facilities within the state of Virginia you may visit the <http://EHDIPALS.org> website or refer to the back of the letter you receive from the Virginia EHDI program with hearing screening results and recommendations.

If you are interested in scheduling a site visit or if you would like more information about the Virginia EHDI Program contact Kathleen Watts: Kathleen.Watts@vdh.virginia.gov or Deepali Sanghani: Deepali.Sanghani@vdh.virginia.gov via **phone at 804-864-7719 or fax at 804-864-7771**. Please visit the VA EHDI Program website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/early-hearing-detection-and-intervention/>

Visit us online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/viis>