



NEWSLETTER

VIRGINIA IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

APRIL—JUNE 2019

What's New...

Did You Know?

Division of Immunization Staff Updates

Ann Basner, is the new Perinatal Hepatitis B Program Coordinator. The VPHB Program is a collaborative effort with local health departments and private providers to identify hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive pregnant women, their household contacts, and sexual partners. This program provides free testing and vaccine, when needed.

Mounika Bazar, is the new Deputy Division Epidemiologist. She implements and maintains surveillance activities for vaccine preventable diseases. Mounika also serves as the subject matter expert and provides technical assistance to field epidemiologist staff.

Janaye Oliver, is the new Adolescent Immunization Coordinator. She is working to improve the HPV immunization rates as the co-chair of the Virginia HPV Immunization Taskforce (VHIT). Janaye also provides immunization related educational resources to schools, providers and community members.

Meredith Robinson, is the new Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Coordinator. She coordinates enhanced data collection and reporting for select vaccine preventable diseases. Meredith also assists with AFM surveillance efforts.

To reach any DOI Program for questions or assistance, please call: (804) 864-8055.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance highlighting the importance of protecting infants from vaccine preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities in the United States. NIIW will be observed April 27—May 4, 2019. The United States celebrates NIIW as part of World Immunization Week, (April 24-30, 2019), an initiative of the World Health Organization.

During NIIW, we celebrate the recipients of the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award. This award is an annual award given jointly by the CDC and the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM), who joins this year as a new partner. The Champions award recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood vaccination.

For more information on NIIW, please visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html

Virginia Vaccine Supply and Assessment Programs (VVSA)

New Acronyms: Field staff who assess compliance for Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) are now called Virginia Vaccines Quality Assurance (VVQA) Consultants. Virginia Vaccine Supply and Assessment (VVSA) oversees Virginia's VFC and VFA programs.

New Medicaid HMOs: Virginia's Medicaid health plans are changing. IN-Total Health is now owned by United HealthCare. Virginia Premier is collaborating with Kaiser Permanente. When verifying vaccine eligibility, check the effective dates for the plans. For more information please visit: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/11/2016/04/VVFCeligibility.pdf>

Technology Corner

Review Data Sent via Data Exchange

Data Exchange already set up? Great! Don't forget to check your data that is uploaded to VIIS. Having access to both VIIS and your Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, enables you to validate completeness and accuracy of data that is transmitted.

VIIS Registration & Training

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

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



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Preventing Hepatitis A in Virginia--Vaccination is Key

States across the country, including Virginia, have been affected by an increase in cases of hepatitis A. Certain individuals such as injection and non injection drug users, incarcerated/recently incarcerated individuals, persons experiencing homelessness, and men who have sex with men (MSM) are at the highest risk for contracting hepatitis A.

In an effort to prevent the spread of hepatitis A in Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has launched a statewide hepatitis A vaccination campaign. Local health departments are working to reach high risk individuals and provide education and vaccine through immunization clinics. VDH is asking all providers to assess their patients' hepatitis A vaccination status and provide the vaccine to those who are not adequately immunized, regardless of risk factors. For more information, visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/hav/>.

Measles Makes a Comeback

Outbreaks of measles have been reported across the country, especially in areas with populations who have low coverage rates of the MMR vaccine. The majority of measles cases are in New York City and New York state, which are primarily among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities and associated with travelers who brought measles back from Israel.

With the upcoming Passover holiday, which begins the evening of Friday April 19 and ends the evening of Saturday, April 27, we anticipate there may be more opportunities for measles to spread. Please be aware that many people celebrating Passover do not stay at home. Families may travel to resorts, hotels, or take cruises for the holiday. And there will likely be an influx of international travelers before Passover, including many from Israel where measles is circulating. Popular destinations include New York, New Jersey, Florida, Las Vegas, Arizona, and Washington, D.C. Maintaining high vaccination rates is critical to prevent the spread of measles in a community! As you interact with your patients, ask them if they are up to date on their vaccines and offer to provide any vaccines they might need.

For more information, visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/2019/04/16/measles-cases-in-the-us/>.

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