

Tracker Talk

January 2007

Vol. 6, No. 1



Jim Farrell's Annual State of the State Report

Dear PIV Members:

It seems like only yesterday that I was drafting my message for 2006 - now an entire year has gone by and I'm at it again. In 2006, as was the case in 2005, we were faced with many challenges and hurdles, but the depth of our convictions, and the strength of our partnership allowed us to continue to move forward and accomplish many of our objectives. In 2006, the CDC's National Immunization Survey (2005 data) ranked Virginia among the top immunization projects for series completion rates at 2 years of age. We successfully supported and implemented two pieces of new legislation. One requires Tdap vaccine for entry into sixth grade, and the second authorizes the administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccine in hospitals under a Standing Orders protocol. During the year, the Vaccines for Children Program was expanded in scope and now serves over 800 provider sites consisting of over 2,000 individual health care providers. The Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) began a year-long pilot, and, to date, the system houses the immunization records of over 400,000 children less than 5 years of age. Many of our other division initiatives also moved forward during the year, and we are now well positioned as we begin the New Year.

While we experienced much success in 2006, many new challenges await us in 2007. For the first time in history, we have a vaccine to protect women from cervical cancer. It is our challenge to educate health care providers and the public about this vaccine and ensure that it becomes the standard of care for adolescent girls. We must also educate providers and the public regarding the appropriate use of other relatively new vaccines (Tdap, hepatitis A, and Rotavirus) and on the importance of annual influenza vaccination. Expansion of VIIS will provide fiscal and logistical challenges that we will need to address. Vaccine supply issues will continue test our will.

Together we have come a long way, and together we will continue to move forward in our quest to ensure maximum protection from vaccine preventable disease for Virginians of all ages. I thank each and every one of you for your contributions during the past year and look forward to facing the challenges of 2007 together.

Mark Your Calendars for 2007

- PIV Quarterly Meetings – January 19, April 19, July 20, October 12
- 41st National Immunization Conference – March 5-8, Kansas City, MO
- 9th Vaccine Update Conference – April 20, Norfolk Sheraton Waterside Hotel
- National Infant Immunization Week – April 21-28
- Hepatitis Awareness Month – May
- National Adolescent Immunization Awareness Week – June 3-9
- National Immunization Awareness Month – August
- National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – September 23-29



REGISTER NOW: 2007 Virginia Vaccine Update Conference

Registration is now open for the 9th Vaccine Update Conference! The conference, hosted by PIV and the Consortium for Infant and Child Health (CINCH), will be held on April 20 at the Norfolk Sheraton Waterside Hotel. This statewide conference will provide information on practical applications of immunization practices, new vaccines and recommendations, risk communication, strategies for hard to reach populations, immunization skills and techniques, and many more exciting topics. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other allied health professionals are invited to attend.

For additional conference information and a link to on-line registration please visit PIV's NEW website at:

www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Immunization/PIV/.

The conference registration fee is \$50 for those who register before March 1 and \$65 for those who register after. The registration fee includes conference materials, a continental breakfast, and lunch. Continuing Education credits will be offered for physicians and for nurses and pharmacists (pending approval).

For conference details or information about continuing education credits, contact PIV at 757-668-6435 or by email: PIV@evms.edu.

Vaccines 4 Tweens 'n' Teens in the News....Again!

PIV's Tweens 'n' Teens logo contest made news in Hampton Roads' *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper once again with the announcement of contest winners. First, second and third place winners received a Visa Gift Card in the amount of \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively. All contest participants received a thank you letter and a "Live Well, Vaccinate" wristband from PIV. The winning logo (seen here) was developed by Brittani Kelzenberg of Salem High School in Virginia Beach.



PIV'S NEW WEB ADDRESS

In addition a new email address, PIV@evms.edu, PIV also has a new web address where you can learn about all of the exciting coalition activities:

www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Immunization/PIV/

National Infant Immunization Week

April 21-28



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) annually observes National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) to promote the benefits of immunizations and to improve the health of children two years old or younger. Since 1994, NIIW has provided an excellent opportunity for local and state health departments, national immunization partners, healthcare providers, and community leaders from across the country to highlight the positive impact of immunization on the lives of infants and children and to call attention to immunization achievements.

What's New for Kids in 2007?

The CDC and the American Academy of Family Physicians have approved changes to the 2007 immunization schedules, which now include:

- ✓ Routine administration of oral live rotavirus vaccine to all infants at ages 2, 4, and 6 months. Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhea in infants and young children.
- ✓ Administration of a second dose of varicella vaccine to all children 4-6 years of age.
- ✓ Administration of the HPV vaccine to girls 11-12 years of age, with a catch-up vaccine given at 13-18 years of age.
- ✓ The annual influenza vaccination has been expanded to include children 6-59 months of age. Vaccination is also recommended for close contacts of children 0-59 months of age.

For more information, or to access a ready-to-print 2007 schedule, visit:

www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.htm#Printable



Center for Pediatric Research
855 West Brambleton Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-668-6435

www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Immunization/PIV/