

# Tracker Talk

July 2007

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August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) to call attention to the importance of immunizing individuals of all ages to prevent serious, life-threatening diseases. During this time of year, parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season. August presents a perfect time to encourage family, friends, co-workers, and community members to catch-up on their vaccinations.

The CDC has posted a range of promotional materials for NIAM on their website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/default.htm>

## Upcoming Immunization Satellite Broadcasts

Please mark your calendars for several upcoming satellite broadcasts from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD). These include *Immunization Update 2007* on August 9 and *Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* on December 13. The annual four-part series broadcast, *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Disease* will occur on January 31, February 7, February 14, and February 21, 2008. As more information becomes available, it will be posted at: [www2.cdc.gov.phtn](http://www2.cdc.gov.phtn).

## CDC's Immunization Website Gets New Look...and Address

CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) launched its new Vaccines & Immunization website. The site, [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines), replaced [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip) and features a new look, a new feel, and many more resources! The website has changed to a topic-driven layout to make it easier for healthcare professionals, parents, and immunization partners to quickly find accurate vaccine and immunization information. If you have suggestions or comments on the new website, please email them to: [ncirdwebteam@cdc.gov](mailto:ncirdwebteam@cdc.gov).

If you are interested in ordering immunization materials, CDC's publication order system is now up and running. To order materials, please visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/default.htm). The order form is located at the bottom of the webpage. Materials currently available include immunization schedules, CD's, DVD's, and annual reports. More items are expected to be available in the near future.



*immunization through the years*

## Mark Your Calendars for 2007



- PIV Quarterly Meetings –July 20, October 12
- National Immunization Awareness Month – August
- National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – September 23-29
- National Influenza Vaccination Week – November 26–December 2
- PIV Membership Retreat – November 30, Location TBA

## TRACKER TALK'S PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Do you have exciting events happening in your locality that you are interested in sharing with the rest of Virginia's immunization community? If so, submit information, or ideas, to *Tracker Talk's* "Program Spotlight" column by contacting PIV at: [PIV@evms.edu](mailto:PIV@evms.edu) or 757-668-6435. Articles should be 2-3 paragraphs in length and need to be submitted two weeks before the following PIV quarterly meeting.

### 2007 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations Update

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has updated their recommendations regarding the use of influenza vaccine. The following is a list of the updates and key points of emphasis for the 2007-2008 influenza season:

1. Reemphasize importance of administering 2 doses of vaccine to all children aged 6 months to 8 years if they have not been previously vaccinated;
2. Recommend children aged 6 months to 8 years who received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination receive 2 doses the following year, with single annual doses in subsequent years;
3. Highlight previous recommendations that all persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with flu or of transmitting flu to others should be vaccinated;
4. Emphasize that immunization providers should offer flu vaccine and clinics throughout the season;
5. Recommend that healthcare facilities consider the level of vaccination coverage among healthcare workers to be one measure of patient-safety and implement policies to encourage vaccination; and
6. Use the 07-08 trivalent vaccine virus strains A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1)-like (new for this season), A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like antigens.

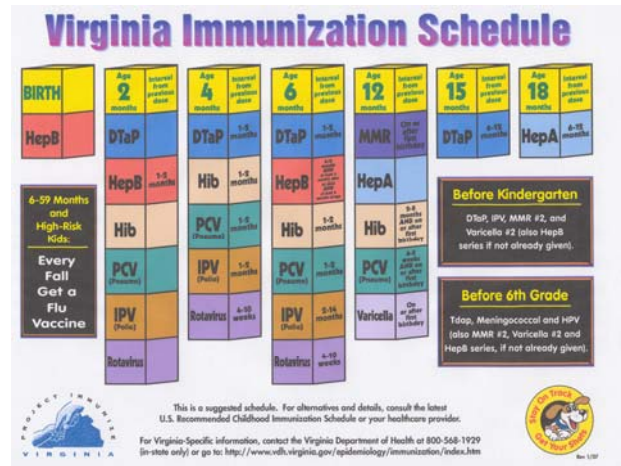
This report and other information are available at CDC's influenza website (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>).



## Virginia's Easy-to-Read Immunization Schedule Now Available Online

Check out PIV's updated immunization timing schedule (pictured below). This very informative and easy-to-read schedule is now available for download on PIV's website at:

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/PIV/index.htm](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/PIV/index.htm). Look for the quick link "Immunization Timing Schedule" on the homepage.



## The Vaccine Update Conference is Moving West!

As the Vaccine Update Conference continues to gain interest from participants throughout Virginia, Planning Committee members have made a decision to move the meeting location closer to the central part of the state. In doing so, PIV is sending out a call to all those interested in joining a statewide Vaccine Update Conference Planning Committee. This is a great opportunity to play an integral role in the planning and execution of Virginia's only immunization-specific conference. The next Vaccine Update will be held in 2009.

To become a member, email [PIV@evms.edu](mailto:PIV@evms.edu) with the subject line: "Vaccine Update Planning Committee." Please include your name and contact information.

EVMS Department of Pediatrics  
855 West Brambleton Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-668-6435

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/PIV/index.htm>

