

Virginia Vaccine for Children Program Awards...

West Piedmont Health District

As an Immunization Champion

On this day, July 23, 2010

The West Piedmont Health District has exhibited extraordinary immunization efforts in both 2009 and 2010. Many health districts have public health nurses who go into local schools to vaccinate for influenza and/or Tdap, but West Piedmont strives to provide all recommended vaccines. When vaccinating with only Tdap, patients are missing the opportunity to receive the other recommended adolescent vaccines such as HPV, meningococcal, and a second dose of varicella vaccine.

West Piedmont provided parents with packets of vaccine information on all recommended adolescent vaccines along with consent forms. Throughout April and June the district staff visited seventeen schools, immunizing as many as 130 students per day. Thanks to the immunization nurse, Sarah Thompson, all of the district staff, and the school staff for their tremendous efforts. "We felt if we offered to go to one school in our district we needed to offer to go to all the schools," said Ms. Thompson. Working with schools can be an effective delivery system for vaccinating as exhibited during last year's H1N1 flu efforts. The West Piedmont Health District is building on the relationships established last year to continue to effectively engage their schools and take advantage of the efficiency it offers.

Children