NEWSLETTER
VIRGINIA IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What's New...

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2016

MEANINGFUL USE

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented an incentive program for eligible health care professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals to adopt, implement or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology (Meaningful Use). One of the objectives of this program is submitting public health data such as immunizations through a process called Data Exchange (DE). This year, 2016, is the last year that a practice can register their intent to begin working toward DE and participate in the financial incentives from CMS available through this program. Those that began participating in 2016 or earlier will be able to continue to participate in the program until 2021. If a health care professional or hospital is interested in participating in this program, they need to register with CMS as well as with their public health agency. In Virginia, the public health agency is the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Please be aware that VDH has been and still is currently able to receive electronic submissions of immunization data. VDH is actively working with hospitals and health care professionals to assist them in meeting the immunization public health objective.

Please note your registration of intent in the VDH Meaningful Use Registration System is in addition to your registration to access the immunization registry, VIIS, through VERIP. Whether your site is already sending data to VIIS or is just beginning to establish an interface, a VDH Meaningful Use registration is needed before year end. VDH wants to be certain that any eligible providers or hospitals do not miss this opportunity to submit their intent to participate in the incentive program.

Additionally VDH has posted on its Meaningful Use Website of its intent to begin accepting query/response bi-directional messaging which meets Stage 3 Meaningful Use Requirements January 1, 2017. You will be able to begin registering intent to send query/response bi-directional messages January 1, 2017 through the VDH Meaningful Use Registration System. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the VDH at 804-864-8055.

Technology Corner

Reviewing Data Sent Through Data Exchange

Data Exchange already set up? Great! Don't forget to check on how your data is coming over in the VIIS website. You have access to both your EMR system and VIIS so you are best suited to know if the information coming over to the registry is accurate and complete! As a data exchange partner with VIIS, you are expected to actively review your data and work with the VIIS team to correct data quality issues that are found in the registry. We want to make sure the information in the registry is as accurate and up-to-date as possible but we can't do it without you! Contact your VIIS Consultant to set-up training if you do not already know how to do this.

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, go to the link below: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/verip

In the Spotlight

Gail Adams
Family Care Center, Lynchburg, VA

"I love VIIS, it's so helpful", said 75 year old Gail Adams, who is the head nurse at Family Care Center in Lynchburg, VA. Gail has loved and enjoyed working under the leadership of Karen Burns for 31 years and does not plan on retiring anytime soon!

Gail had been trained on VIIS briefly in 2010, during H1N1, on how to enter flu vaccines. At that time, the practice did not have an electronic health record (EHR). Gail stated "Because VIIS is user friendly, I decided to continue using it to enter all vaccines administered here at Family Care Center". Gail also updated their patient's VIIS immunization records with historical vaccines, to include, vaccines that had been administered at other medical facilities. This extra step would ensure the patients to have a more complete immunization record.

In 2015, Family Care Center's electronic health record system was interfaced with VIIS to meet Meaningful Use. Gail and her staff continue to use VIIS daily. They review immunization records for all patients in VIIS before administering vaccine in an effort to reduce over immunizing. The staff also finds VIIS very resourceful because of the integrated ACIP vaccine schedule for each client and the ease of printing the official immunization record. Gail updates all of their patient's demographic information in VIIS and always informs VDH when she finds duplicate immunization records for patients.

We would like to thank Gail Adams and the staff at Family Care Center in Lynchburg for all their hard work and helping to make VIIS an even better system for healthcare providers across the state of Virginia.

Did You Know...

Summer Travel

Before taking that family trip, check out the CDC's Travelers' Health website at: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list. Learn which vaccines are required and what to pack for the region that you are visiting.

Duplicate Vaccines

Do you have duplicate vaccine records? To correct this, contact your VIIS Consultant or the Help Desk at 1-866-375-9795. To help us better assist you in an efficient manner, the patient's VIIS ID numbers and date of birth to merge the records must be provided.

Visit us online at: *http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/viis*