

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

Immunizations Issue - September 2016

Vaccines protect our population against many preventable diseases

Those who have been vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases are largely protected from these infections as long as their vaccinations are up to date. The more people who are vaccinated in a community, the less these diseases can spread.



Vaccination is considered one of the top 10 medical achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines protect us from vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, the flu, pertussis, polio, and certain forms of cancer. Yet recently the country has seen a resurgence of some of these diseases as vaccination rates fall among certain groups. While Delaware's vaccination rates are high, we still see local outbreaks, including every year with flu and a 2014 outbreak of whooping cough, mainly in Kent County.

Free CDC Vaccine Schedules app

For iOS 6.0 or later:



For Android 4.0 or later:



Pregnant women and vaccines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a quick, informative, and fun vaccination quiz for pregnant women. The CDC recommends that women receive certain immunizations before or during pregnancy. Vaccination helps prevent mothers from getting sick and passes protective antibodies to newborns through breast milk. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/vaccine-quiz.html>. A quiz for adolescents and adults is at <https://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/>.

**Coming Soon:
Special Flu edition**

The Delaware Immunization Program

The Delaware Immunization Program within the Division of Public Health (DPH) prevents and controls the transmission of vaccine preventable diseases by increasing immunization rates.

The program is a major resource for vaccinators and provides information about vaccines and vaccine safety, vaccine preventable diseases; travel vaccination information and advisories; and storage and handling guidance. It oversees the federal Vaccine for Children program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who otherwise might not be vaccinated because of inability to pay. Visit <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/immunize.html> to learn more.

The Immunization Program also manages the Delaware immunization registry, DelVAX. This database collects information on all vaccinations administered in Delaware, allowing providers to quickly determine which vaccines a patient needs. The program also provides immunization records to schools and individuals. To request an immunization record, call the Immunization Program at 800-282-8672 or send a written request via email or fax to immunizedph@state.de.us.

Adults need immunizations, too



Immunizations are not only for kids! As adults age, our immune systems weaken and we become more susceptible to complications from diseases. Adults should get an annual influenza shot, and may also need a pneumococcal and shingles shot, and booster shots for diseases such as whooping cough and tetanus. Ask your provider which vaccines are right for you.

New Meningococcal vaccines offered

The Food and Drug Administration has licensed two serogroup B meningococcal vaccines for people 10 years or older at increased risk for serogroup B meningococcal infections, and anyone 16 through 23 years old for short term protection. Patients should consult with their physicians.



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