



Arizona Vaccine News

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TOPICS

VACCINE NEWS

- **The US Supreme Court Votes to Uphold the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program**
- **APIC Calls for Yearly Influenza Shot for All Healthcare Workers**
- **CDC Publishes Updated “General Recommendations on Immunizations”**
- **CDC Publishes Recommendations for Use of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccines**
- **Differences between ACIP and FDA Recommendations on Tdap**
- **Guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services**

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES NEWS

- **Two Measles Cases in Arizona**
- **Influenza Continues to Circulate Widely in Arizona and the US**

LITERATURE ON VACCINES AND VACCINE PREVENTABLE-DISEASES

- **Efficacy of Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine in Males**
- **Rotavirus Vaccines Significantly Reduce Severe Disease and Death**
- **Diphtheria-like Illness Caused by *Corynebacterium ulcerans***
- **Influenza Vaccine Given to Pregnant Women Reduces Hospitalization in Infants**
- **No Influenza Vaccine Link to Guillain-Barré Syndrome**

VACCINE RESOURCES

- **New CDC Guidance on Pertussis Specimen Collection and Use of PCR**
- **Screening Questionnaire Forms for Vaccine Contraindications**
- **Stories of People with Vaccine-preventable Diseases**
- **New CDC Immunization Schedules for 2011**
- **A New ADHS Document: “Why Parents Should Vaccinate Their Children “**

HOW TO FIND PERTUSSIS VACCINES (Tdap) FOR ADULTS

- **Challenges in Finding Locations to Get Tdap for Adults**
- **Resources for Getting Tdap for Adults**
- **How to Order Tdap for Your Office**

VACCINE NEWS

The US Supreme Court Votes to Uphold the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

- In the 1980s, pharmaceutical companies were pulling out of vaccine production because of lawsuits alleging damage from vaccines
- In order to protect the nation's vaccine supply, Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 which established the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), a no-fault program to compensate the families of children who suffer from rare adverse reactions caused by vaccines.
- A legal challenge was brought against the VICP. The US Supreme Court has ruled to uphold the VICP.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics applauds this decision. For more details, see: http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/AAPPressReleaseBruesewitzRuling_2_22_11.PDF

APIC Calls for Yearly Influenza Shot for All Healthcare Workers

- The Association of Practitioners of Infection Control (APIC) has issued a position paper calling for mandatory influenza vaccination as a condition of employment.
- Healthcare workers are at an increased risk of influenza because of exposure to ill patients
- Healthcare workers with influenza can spread influenza to their patients.

For the position paper, see:

http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Featured_News_and_Events&CONTENTID=17428&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

CDC Publishes Updated "General Recommendations on Immunizations"

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published "General Recommendations on Immunizations" in the Jan. 28, 2011 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR). Notable revisions to the previous 2006 general recommendations include:
 - Revisions to the tables of contraindications and precautions to vaccination
 - Table of conditions that are commonly misperceived as contraindications and precautions
 - Stricter criteria for selecting an appropriate storage unit for vaccines
 - Additional guidance for maintaining the cold chain in the event of unavoidable temperature deviation
 - Updated recommendations that all bone marrow transplant patients need to be revaccinated and the timing of those vaccines

See MMWR January 28, 2011

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6002.pdf>

CDC Publishes Recommendations for Use of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccines

There are two new recommendations for meningococcal conjugate vaccines (MCV4):

1. Routine MCV4 vaccination of adolescents, preferably at age 11-12 years, with a booster dose at age 16 years
 - If MCV4 is given at 13-15 years, then a booster dose at ages 16-18 years, with at least 8 weeks between doses
 - If the first dose of MCV4 is given at ≥ 16 years, no booster is needed
 - MCV4 is not recommended for otherwise healthy people after 21 years if they are not at increased risk of *N. meningitidis* exposure
2. Two dose MCV4 primary series administered 2 months apart for persons aged 2-54 years with disorders that put them at higher risk for invasive meningococcal disease:
 - Persistent complement component deficiency
 - Functional or anatomic asplenia
 - Adolescents with human immunodeficiency virus infection

See: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6003a3.htm?s_cid=mm6003a3_w

Differences between ACIP and FDA Recommendations on Tdap

- There are two pertussis vaccines licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in adolescents and adults. Boostrix® is licensed for ages 10-64 years, and Adacel® is licensed for ages 11-64 years.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends that the adolescent/adult pertussis vaccine (Tdap) can be used in children ages 7-9 years and in adults who are 65 years and older, even though this differs from the package inserts.
- Dr. William Atkinson and Dr. Andrew Kroger of the CDC point out that ACIP recommendations represent the standard of care for vaccination practice in the United States. Therefore, when there is a difference between ACIP recommendations and the vaccine package insert, their advice is that (in general) one should follow the recommendations of ACIP rather than the information in the vaccine package insert.

See Needle Tips, January 2011, page 1:

http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n47/n47.pdf?utm_source=Needle+Tips+Announcement&utm_campaign=f2c966c6c1-Needle+Tips+Announcement+January+2011&utm_medium=email

Guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

- The Vaccine for Children (VFC) program which is administered through the Arizona Immunization Program Office does not currently have ProQuad® (measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine) available to order. It is expected that ProQuad® will not be available through VFC until sometime in 2012.
- Providers are mandated to report all vaccines given to children 18 years and under to the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). This includes adult providers that administer vaccines such as Gardasil® to adolescents.
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/asiis>
- Sharing the information about vaccine receipt with ASIIS staff is not a violation of HIPAA.
- ADHS' annual immunization conference will be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix on April 27-28, 2011. Online registration will be available soon.

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES NEWS

Two Measles Cases in Arizona

- In January 2011 an adult with international travel was diagnosed in Pima County.
- In February 2011 an adult without international travel and no contact with the Pima County case was diagnosed in Maricopa County.
- Surveillance for secondary measles cases is continuing.
- Any health care provider suspecting measles in a patient should notify their local health department immediately.
- Suspect measles cases should be placed in airborne isolation as soon as possible.
- The best way to prevent measles is to be vaccinated with two doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR).

Influenza Continues to Circulate Widely in Arizona and the US

- As of February 12, 2011, there have been three pediatric deaths associated with influenza reported in Arizona, and 35 pediatric influenza-associated deaths reported in the US.
- Arizona has been at “widespread” influenza levels since the beginning of January.
- Continue to offer influenza vaccine to unvaccinated people, especially those at high risk of complications. Although it will take 1-2 weeks to get optimal vaccine protection, historically influenza circulates in Arizona through April.

For updated Arizona influenza surveillance data, see <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/epi/flu> and for updated US influenza data, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>.

LITERATURE ON VACCINES AND VACCINE PREVENTABLE-DISEASES

Efficacy of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine in Males

- Quadrivalent HPV vaccine prevents infection with HPV-6, 11, 16, and 18 and the development of related external genital lesions in males 16 to 26 years of age.

See the editorial and the abstract on pages 393 and 401 in the February 3, 2011 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine at <http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/364/5>

Rotavirus Vaccines Significantly Reduce Severe Disease and Death

- An entire supplement to the January 2011 edition of the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* shows the dramatic impact of rotavirus vaccines on children's health in both developed and developing countries.
- The entire contents of the supplement is available at: <http://journals.lww.com/pidj/toc/2011/01001>

Diphtheria-like Illness Caused by *Corynebacterium ulcerans*

- Respiratory diphtheria-like illness caused by a toxin-producing *C. ulcerans* infection can be clinically indistinguishable from disease caused by toxin-producing *C. diphtheriae* infections
- Diphtheria vaccination protects against disease from toxin-producing strains of both *C. diphtheriae* and *C. ulcerans*.

See MMWR January 28, 2011

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6003a4.htm?s_cid=mm6003a4_w

Influenza Vaccine Given to Pregnant Women Reduces Hospitalization in Infants

- Influenza vaccine given to pregnant women in the US was 91.5% effective in preventing hospitalization of their infants for influenza in the first 6 months of life.

See the abstract in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, December 15, 2010

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/51/12/1355.abstract>

No Influenza Vaccine Link to Guillain-Barré Syndrome

- No increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome was found after 89.6 million doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza that were given in China.

See the full article in the February 17, 2011 issue of *New England Journal of Medicine* at

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1008553>

VACCINE RESOURCES

New CDC Guidance on Pertussis Specimen Collection and Use of PCR

- A video explaining how to collect a nasopharyngeal swab for pertussis testing can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html>
- A document explaining how to use polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for diagnosing pertussis can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-pcr-bestpractices.html>
- PCR testing for pertussis is available through commercial laboratories. PCR and/or culture are preferable to serology for diagnosing pertussis.

Screening Questionnaire Forms for Vaccine Contraindications

- The Immunization Action Coalition has put together screening questionnaires for vaccine contraindications.
- The adult form can be found at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4065.pdf>
- The form for children and teenagers can be found at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4060.pdf>

Stories of People with Vaccine-preventable Diseases

- A website at <http://shotbyshot.org> shares stories of people who were seriously affected by vaccine-preventable infections
- Providers with vaccine-hesitant parents may find this website helpful in teaching about the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases

New CDC Immunization Schedules for 2011

- The CDC has published the 2011 vaccine schedules for children, adolescents, and adults at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>

A New ADHS Document: “Why Parents Should Vaccinate Their Children “

- Health care providers may wish to consider giving a new ADHS document entitled “Why Parents Should Vaccinate Their Children” to vaccine-hesitant parents. See http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/pdf/Why_Parents_Should_Vaccinate_Their_Children.pdf

HOW TO FIND PERTUSSIS VACCINES (Tdap) FOR ADULTS

- Finding Tdap for adults can be more challenging than finding Tdap for adolescents, since uninsured adolescents can get Tdap at their health care provider or county health department through the federal Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. The following is information to help providers and patients find Tdap vaccine for adults.

Challenges in Finding Locations to Get Tdap for Adults

Important Points to Consider

- Although the goal is for adult patients to get vaccinated in their medical homes, adult health care providers may not always carry Tdap in their offices.
- Not all health insurance plans cover immunizations such as Tdap. Patients need to check with their health insurance company to see what is covered in their plan.
- Pharmacies with certified physicians can give most vaccines (including Tdap) to adults 18 years and older *without* a doctor's prescription.
- A pharmacy still needs a prescription in order to give a vaccine to someone out of the licensed age group (such as giving Tdap to someone 65 years or older).
- In many cases, pharmacies do not have contracts with insurance companies, so the patient who is vaccinated at a pharmacy may be responsible for the entire cost of the vaccine.
- The retail cost for Tdap may range from \$60-\$70.
- Tdap is not routinely given to pregnant women but can be given to pregnant women in special circumstances. See MMWR, May 30, 2008, p. 33.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5704.pdf>

Resources for Getting Tdap for Adults

The following locations may have Tdap. Patients will need to call these locations for more details about availability, age ranges, insurance cost, cost, and hours of operation.

- Many private physicians, urgent care clinics, travel clinics, immunization clinics, occupational health clinics, and walk-in clinics.
- Pharmacies with vaccine-certified pharmacists
- County health departments (usually there is a charge for adult Tdap)
- Indian Health Services
- Federally Qualified Health Centers usually offer Tdap and can often work with patients to adjust the price based on the patient's ability to pay. These can be found at <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>.

How to Order Tdap for Your Office

- There are two FDA-approved pertussis vaccines for use in adolescents and adults: Boostrix® (GlaxoSmithKline) and Adacel® (Sanofi Pasteur).
 - Boostrix® information can be found through the GSK customer service representatives at 888-825-5249.
 - Adacel® information can be found through the Sanofi Pasteur customer service representatives at 1-800-VACCINE. For Maricopa County, call 602-639-0448.
- Please feel free to distribute ADHS' *Arizona Vaccine News* to any of your partners who may be interested. Past issues of *Arizona Vaccine News* can be found at:
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/index.htm>