



Arizona Vaccine News
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NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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VACCINE AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE NEWS

Using Influenza Vaccine in Egg Allergic Patients

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) has issued an updated statement concerning use of influenza vaccine in egg allergic patients.

- The AAAAI no longer recommends that influenza vaccine be withheld from patients with egg allergies.
- Using influenza vaccines with the lowest amount of ovalbumin is recommended.
- Practitioners can use either a one step or a two step vaccine administration process.

See the full statement for more details.

http://www.aaaai.org/professionals/administering_influenza_vaccine.pdf

CDC Updates Statement on RotaTeq® and Rotarix® Vaccines

- Data on the risk of intussusception after rotavirus vaccines were reviewed at the October 28, 2010 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- A small risk of intussusception caused by rotavirus vaccine is possible, especially after the first dose (about 1 case per 100,000 infants).
- Use of rotavirus vaccines has reduced the number of infants and children in the US needing hospitalization or emergency department care for rotavirus disease by about 85%.
- In 2008, there were an estimated 40,000–60,000 fewer gastroenteritis-related hospitalizations among children less than 5 years of age in the US than in the pre-vaccine seasons.
- CDC continues to recommend both Rotarix® and RotaTeq® to prevent severe rotavirus disease in U.S. infants and children due to the great benefits from these vaccines.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/rotavirus/intussusception-studies-acip.htm>

American College of Physicians (ACP) Supports Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for Health Care Workers

The ACP has published an updated position statement supporting mandatory influenza vaccination policies for health care workers.

- An annual influenza vaccine should be required for every health care worker with direct patient care activities.
- If they have not been vaccinated for medical contraindication or religious objections, health care workers should not engage in direct patient care activities if influenza-like symptoms are present.
- Health care workers who cannot receive influenza vaccines due to medical contraindications or religious reasons should either be re-assigned to non-patient care areas during influenza season or wear a mask at all times during influenza season in the context of patient care.

For more details, see:

http://www.acponline.org/clinical_information/resources/adult_immunization/flu_hcw.pdf

Pertussis Outbreak in California Is Continuing

- California has had 6,431 pertussis cases and 10 infant deaths in 2010 as of 10/30/2010. This is the highest number of cases in 60 years.
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/PertussisReport2010-11-02.pdf>
- Arizona has had 361 pertussis cases and no deaths in 2010 as of 11/4/2010. This is in contrast to 277 cases in all of 2009.
http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/pdf/morbidity_month2010.pdf

Low Pertussis Vaccination Coverage in Adults in US

- Only 5.9% adults in the US report having received pertussis vaccine (Tdap: combined tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine) in contrast to 61.6% of adults who report having received just tetanus vaccine (Td) within the last 10 years.
- This low Tdap coverage shows the need to discuss Tdap vaccination status with all adult patients.
- Give extra attention to encourage Tdap vaccination of health care providers, parents of newborn infants, and any adult who has contact with infants.

See Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) October 15, 2010 / 59(40):1302-1306.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5940a3.htm?s_cid=mm5940a3_e

Final US Influenza Vaccination Estimates for 2009--10

- Seasonal influenza vaccine coverage in all recipients (≥ 6 months old) was 41.2%.
- Pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine coverage in all recipients was 27.0%.

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/coverage_0910estimates.htm

VACCINE AND VACCINE PREVENTABLE-DISEASE LITERATURE

Immunizing Pregnant Women Protects Mothers and Infants against Influenza

- Pregnant women with influenza are 18 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 5 times more likely to die from influenza than nonpregnant women.
- Infants under 6 months with influenza have about a 1% risk of hospitalization.
- Immunizing mothers in Bangladesh decreased infant influenza by 63% and decreased maternal influenza-like illnesses by 36%.
- Immunizing mothers in the US had an 85% effectiveness in preventing influenza-associated hospitalization in infants.

See Pediatrics, November 2010 <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/126/5/1008>

Rule Out Pertussis in Unvaccinated Infants Admitted for Bronchiolitis

- Finnish investigators tested for Bordetella pertussis and viral infections in 142 infants less than 6 months old who were hospitalized for bronchiolitis
- Coinfection with B. pertussis was present in 8.5% (N=12)
- Coughing spells were more common in pertussis positive infants (41.7%) than in pertussis negative infants (14.7%). Otherwise, there were no differences in the clinical findings for those with only viral infections compared with those who had coinfection with B. pertussis and a respiratory virus.
- To avoid underdiagnosis, pertussis should be considered in all nonvaccinated infants admitted for lower respiratory tract infections.

See: Nuolivirta K, Koponen P, He Q, et al. Bordetella pertussis Infection is Common in Nonvaccinated Infants Admitted for Bronchiolitis. Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, November 2010.

http://journals.lww.com/pidj/Abstract/2010/11000/Bordetella_pertussis_Infection_Is_Common_in.8.aspx

VACCINE RESOURCES

Explaining How Personal Belief Vaccine Exemptions Put People at Risk

- A new evidence-based handout for providers and family members has been written by the Immunization Action Coalition.
- This 2-page summary describes 14 different studies showing how personal belief vaccine exemptions harm other people as well as the unimmunized patient.

See <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2069.pdf>

Power Point Picture Gallery of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

- A slide presentation containing photographs of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases is now available from the Immunization Action Coalition.
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/s8010.pdf>

INFLUENZA NEWS

Current Circulating Influenza Strains in US

- US influenza isolates are still at low levels. Isolates are fairly equally distributed between all three strains: pandemic H1N1, H3N2, and influenza B.
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/map.htm>
- Arizona has had laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in several counties. There have been equal numbers of influenza A and B isolates this season, with both Influenza A/H3 and influenza B identified by PCR or culture. See
http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/epi/flu/pdf/influenza/influenza_2010-11_wk43.pdf

Keep Offering Influenza Vaccine All Season

- Demand for influenza vaccine often wanes around the holidays. However, influenza usually does not peak in Arizona until January or February.
- Keep offering influenza vaccine to everyone 6 months and older who is unvaccinated throughout the holidays, throughout the winter, and into early spring.

Links for Tracking Down an Influenza Vaccine

- Community Information Referral (Arizona non-profit community). www.cir.org/flu
 - 602-263-8856 from anywhere
 - 800-352-3792 from area codes 520 & 928
 - 800-367-8939 TDD (Arizona Relay)
- Arizona Stop the Spread campaign www.stopthespreadaz.org
- American Lung Association <http://www.lungusa.org/lung-disease/influenza/flu-vaccine-finder>
- Flu Vaccine Finder (US Department of Health and Human Services) www.flu.gov

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