

KEEPING CT KIDS HEALTHY

News from the Connecticut Vaccine Program



Department of Public Health Immunization Program

February 2013

CVP Enrollment (2/15/13)

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total Enrollments: | 712 |
| New Enrollees: | 84 |
| Re-enrollees | 628 |

New Enrollees

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Pediatrics: | 19 |
| Family Medicine | 26 |
| School Clinic/SBHC | 10 |
| Urgent Care | 5 |
| OB/GYN | 2 |
| Asthma/Pulmonary | 7 |
| Allergy | 2 |
| Local Health | 3 |
| Hospitals | 3 |
| Internal Medicine | 4 |
| FQHC | 1 |
| Other | 2 |

The Connecticut Vaccine Program ensures all children in the state receive the vaccinations they need to stay healthy.

Public Act 12-1 created the program, which requires health care providers who administer pediatric vaccines to obtain the vaccines through the CVP.

For more information about the program, visit www.ct.gov/dph/cvp

Contact Us:
Connecticut Vaccine Program
(860) 509-7929

Health Department Expands Availability of Flu Vaccine for Children; nearly 6,000 doses ordered

In January, the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) temporarily expanded the availability of state-supplied seasonal flu vaccine to include all children 5 through 18 years of age, regardless of their insurance status. This decision was made in response to continued widespread flu activity in the state and reports of some providers having difficulty obtaining enough pediatric influenza vaccine to meet demand.

For the remainder of the influenza season, seasonal flu vaccine will be available to providers who are enrolled in the CVP for all Connecticut children. To date, 149 orders from 89 providers have been placed for 5940 doses of vaccine. Orders can still be placed by contacting CVP staff at (860) 509-7929.



Update on Billing and Coding Issues

Billing

The CVP has confirmed that health insurers will accept \$0.0 claims. Concerns had been raised by some health care providers that health insurers would not reimburse providers for vaccine administration if they did not bill at least one penny (\$0.01) for vaccine cost. Letters from health insurers have been posted on the DPH CVP website stating that they will process vaccine administration claims with corresponding \$0.0 vaccine cost claims.

Coding

On January 1, 2013 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the latest version of the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits. The NCCI edits are code edits published by both Medicaid and Medicare to support correct coding and claims adjudication. Included in the new Medicaid and Medicare edits were edits on all evaluation and management (E/M) services that disallow patient with immunization administration codes without the proper modifier.

Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning the NCCI edits and their impact on pediatric practices can be obtained by [clicking here](#).

New Resources to Protect Babies from Whooping Cough

Whooping cough, a serious disease that can be deadly for babies, spiked to a nearly 60-year record high last year with more than 41,000 cases reported in the United States. About half of infants who get whooping cough end up in the hospital. The majority of deaths last year occurred among infants younger than 3 months.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a simple, colorful new infographic to explain three steps that expectant parents can take to give their babies the best protection from whooping cough, including the recent recommendation that pregnant women get a Tdap shot during every pregnancy. Check out the infographic and help them learn how to protect babies from whooping cough. Consider placing it on your website and promote it on your Facebook and Twitter profiles. Please visit www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough for more information.

Submit Your Nomination for the CDC Immunization Champion Award; nominations due March 1st

The *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award* is an annual award that recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization.

A CDC Childhood Immunization Champion is an individual who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has provided community leadership on immunization issues and collaborated with others to build support for and increase immunization rates of infants and young children
- Has used creative and/or innovative strategies to promote infant and young child immunization and meet unique immunization challenges within their community, state or region, including, for example, reaching hard-to-reach or under-immunized populations
- Has been a visible childhood immunization champion in a community and/or medical system by acting as a spokesperson, advocate, and/or educator
- Has been an advocate for childhood immunization policy advancements

Awardees will be announced from all 50 states and the District of Columbia during National Infant Immunization Week, April 20-7, 2013.

For more information and a nomination packet, please click [here](http://www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough) or contact the CVP at 509-7929. Nominations must be submitted to the DPH Immunizations Program.

Protect Babies from Whooping Cough

Whooping cough is deadly for babies

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a respiratory infection that can cause severe coughing or trouble breathing.

About half of infants who get whooping cough are hospitalized!

Whooping cough cases across the U.S. have been on the rise since the 1980s.

Pregnant women need to get a Tdap shot

I got my whooping cough vaccine and will encourage everyone caring for my baby to get a shot, too!

This vaccine helps protect you from whooping cough and passes some protection to your baby.

Create a circle of protection around your baby

Everyone needs whooping cough vaccine:

- Parents
- Brothers & sisters
- Childcare providers
- Grandparents

4 out of 5 babies catch whooping cough from someone at home.

Make sure your baby gets all 5 doses of whooping cough vaccine on time

Your baby needs whooping cough vaccine at:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 15 and 18 months
- 4 and 6 years

You can get whooping cough vaccines at a doctor's office, local health department, or pharmacy

Like it? Tell a friend! It's important! Pin it! Tweet it! Share it on Facebook!

www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention