

September 2008

## Attention Medical Providers

### DON'T WAIT....VACCINATE NOW!

School immunization regulations will be changing for the [school year 2009-2010](#). Children in **ALL GRADES** will need the following:

- 4 doses of tetanus/diphtheria\* (1 dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- 3 doses of polio
- 2 doses of measles\*\*
- 2 doses of mumps\*\*
- 1 dose of rubella (German measles)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease (phased in by 2010/2011)

\*Usually given as DTP, DtaP, DT or Td

\*\*Usually given as MMR

Children **ENTERING 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE** in 2009/2010 will need the following:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if more than 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)
- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)

For more information, please call **1 877 PA HEALTH** or visit the PA Dept of health website at: [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).

For flyer/poster "Attention Parents" regarding School Law Immunization requirements: [click here](#)



## Vaccine Safety Site Launched

A great deal of time is spent in pediatric offices around the country dispelling myths and rumors about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Parental refusal of vaccines is on the rise. In 1991, less than 1% of children went without vaccines based on exemption, but according to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, by 2004 the percentage had increased to 2.54% (<http://tinyurl.com/2p93au>). Refusing immunizations could lead to outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. Examples of outbreaks have already been seen in:

[California](#) - an unvaccinated 7 year old boy, upon his return from a trip to Switzerland, spread the measles to 11 other unvaccinated children:

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5708a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm5708a3\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5708a3.htm?s_cid=mm5708a3_e), &

[Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Texas](#) - a 12 year old boy visiting from Japan became ill with measles, which spread to six other individuals: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5707a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm5707a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5707a1.htm?s_cid=mm5707a1_e).

The CDC's Immunization Safety Office (ISO) has launched an updated Web site to help the public understand more about vaccine safety and address widespread myths about vaccines.

Please visit the site at [www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety).

For more information on CDC immunization updates, visit this website:



<http://www.bucksimmunize.org/cdc-iu/ImmunizationUpdate200807.pdf>

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## Bucks County Immunization Coalition – Then and Now

In the early 1990, there was a public health movement to use collaborative endeavors to improve the health of our communities. The Bucks County Immunization Coalition grew out of this effort. Representatives from Bucks County Health Department met with members of several local Rotary Clubs to enlist their help in improving the immunization levels of our County's children.

Rotary International had a long and successful history of helping to fight polio through "Polio Immunization Days" around the world. Hundreds of volunteers travel to distant lands and administered polio drops directly to children in places like India and Africa. We hoped that the enthusiasm of these dedicated Rotarians could inspire our newly formed Immunization Coalition with ideas on how to get parents more interested in having their children immunized.

Overall, the experiences of the Rotarians in third world nations was quite dissimilar to engaging Bucks County parents in their children's immunization needs. One common issue was that many parents really did not know much about the diseases that could be prevented by immunizations. Most parents here and throughout the world had no idea what a disease like diphtheria, pertussis or measles might mean to their youngster. We learned that parents needed clear, understandable information – not to scare them into compliance but to educate them about the seriousness of these illnesses.

A recent newspaper article noted that the number of unvaccinated school children is again rising throughout Bucks and Montgomery County as well as throughout our state. A small but growing number of parents are choosing to refuse certain vaccinations due to concerns about vaccine safety and unverified connections to autism. The results could be tragic. Continued parental education about the value of immunizations remains an important task.

Fortunately, Bucks County Immunization Coalition has had many successes over the past 16 years. As one of its early founders, I have been thrilled to see our Immunization Coalition's work recognized at events including a recent Phillies baseball game. Our community can be proud of the fine efforts of this group in continuing to make immunizations a priority throughout our community. I remember with fondness the suggestion made by one Rotarian, a retired veterinarian, as he urged our fledgling coalition to send immunization reminder postcards to parents. He informed us that our pets are better immunized than our children. That is a statistic that is worth changing!

Sally Fabian, RN, MSN  
Executive Director  
Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership

### Bucks County Immunization Champions

|                                       |      |                                      |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Lower Bucks Pediatrics                | 92%  | Bucks County Pediatrics              | 94%  |
| Buckingham Pediatrics                 | 100% | Edward P. Spiegel, MD                | 100% |
| Holland Pediatrics – Whispering Woods | 96%  | Jitendra Shaw, MD                    | 94%  |
| St Mary Children Center               | 90%  | Kids First-Central Bucks Pediatrics  | 92%  |
| Bishnu C. Borah, MD                   | 90%  | Margiotti & Kroll Pediatrics-Trevose | 94%  |
| Margiotti & Kroll-Newtown             | 100% | Wee Care Pediatrics                  | 90%  |
| Valley Pediatrics                     | 90%  | Cevalles & Moise Pediatrics          | 94%  |
| Kids First – High Point               | 94%  | Kids First-Newtown                   | 100% |
| Penridge Pediatrics                   | 94%  |                                      |      |

#### "Bee" A Member!

The Bucks County Immunization Coalition welcomes new members with a commitment to the health and welfare of Pennsylvania residents in Bucks County. We are looking for energetic people to join our coalition.

Coalition membership will give you the opportunity to meet and work together with other community members who share a passion and desire to improve the health and well being of Bucks County.

Meetings take place at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month at the Bucks County Department of Health, Neshaminy Manor Center in Doylestown. Please RSVP to **Ann Gordon** at **215-345-3477** if you plan to attend.