



# What's the Buzz?

The Newsletter of the Bucks County Immunization Coalition

[www.bucksimmunize.org](http://www.bucksimmunize.org)

November 2008

Please join the  
**Bucks County Immunization Coalition**  
And other area immunization coalitions  
Thursday, December 11, 2008



The Flyers host the  
**Carolina Hurricanes**  
@



**WACHOVIA CENTER**

7:00 p.m.

**Discounted Tickets Available:**

Tickets (subject to availability) are located:

- Mezzanine- rows 8-11, & rows 12-15
- Price: \$36.00 & \$43.00
- Order tickets online: <http://tinyurl.com/4w6pbq>

**ENTER PROMOTION CODE: SHOTS**

For additional information or to purchase by phone,  
Please contact Dan Ryan @ 215-218-4329 for  
Influenza Immunization Awareness Night

BCIC would like to thank everyone who participated in the Adult Immunization Promotion night with the Philadelphia Phillies. Regional area Immunization Coalitions worked together to sell 582 tickets to the game enabling a PSA on the big screen regarding adult immunization awareness. Rally towels were distributed to ticket holders bearing the Cover your Bases "Get Immunized" theme. It was truly a win-win night for all, as the collaboration was a huge success and a great time.

**For more information on CDC immunization updates, check out 'Immunization Works'!**

**September 2008 issue**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/news/newsltrs/imwrks/2008/200809.htm>

**October 2008 issue**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/news/newsltrs/imwrks/2008/200810.htm>

## Immunization News Flash

**HIB SHORTAGE:** VFC Provider Alert

[http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/immunizations/HIB\\_2008\\_Update2.pdf](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/immunizations/HIB_2008_Update2.pdf)

**PNEUMOVAX:** CDC votes to update Pneumococcal vaccination recommendations

<http://www.webmd.com/news/20081022/adult-smokers-need-pneumococcal-vaccine>

### **NATIONAL INFLUENZA WEEK**

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) will take place the week of December 8-14. NIVW is designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as to foster greater use of influenza vaccine through the months of November and December 2008 and into spring 2009.

### **Resources for NIVW**

CDC updated its Seasonal Flu web section with resources intended to encourage public awareness of NIVW. These include resources for healthcare professionals and partners such as a media toolkit, podcasts, and e-cards; listings of state and national events and activities; an online submission form for listing your NIVW-related events; and free English and Spanish-language badges, banners, and buttons to add to your website.

To access these resources, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw>

### **"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.

# Summary of influenza vaccination recommendations, 2008

## Children and adolescents aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday

Vaccination of all children aged 6 months–18 years should begin before or during the 2008–09 influenza season if feasible, but no later than during the 2009–10 influenza season. Vaccination of all children aged 5–18 years is a new ACIP recommendation. Children and adolescents at high risk for influenza complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routinely vaccinating all children and adolescents. Recommendations for these children have not changed. Children and adolescents at higher risk for influenza complication are those:

- aged 6 months–4 years;
- who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- who are immunosuppressed (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
- who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration;
- who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy who therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
- who are residents of chronic-care facilities; and,
- who will be pregnant during the influenza season.

**Note:** Children aged <6 months should not receive influenza vaccination. Household and other close contacts (e.g., daycare providers) of children aged <6 months, including older children and adolescents, should be vaccinated.

## Adults

Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for any adult who wants to reduce the risk for becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting it to others. Vaccination also is recommended for all adults in the following groups, because these persons are either at high risk for influenza complications, or are close contacts of persons at higher risk:

- persons aged >50 years;
- women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- persons who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- persons who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
- persons who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities;
- health-care personnel;
- household contacts and caregivers of children aged <5 years and adults aged >50 years, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged <6 months; and,
- household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at high risk for severe complications from influenza.