

What's the Buzz?

The Newsletter of the Bucks County Immunization Coalition

www.bucksimmunize.org

Spring 2009



From the Desk of the Medical Director

As the new director of the Bucks County Health Department, I am excited to support the work of the Bucks County Immunization Coalition.

Next to proper sanitation, the widespread use of immunizations is at the very top of the most important historical achievements of public health worldwide. Despite our success with infectious disease control, immunization work will continue to remain as a core mission of public health.

It is easy for our public to discount the importance and safety of vaccination, as many of the vaccine-preventable diseases no longer are seen in the United States. Does anyone believe that we would see such anti-vaccine groups as "putchildrenfirst.org" or the "National Vaccine Information Center" if we were seeing the horrific effects of polio on our children?

It is truly a testament to the success of our immunization efforts that people are more concerned with the possible (if not imagined) side effects of vaccines than with the diseases themselves.

I look forward to working with BCIC in their future endeavors, and am thrilled at the prospect of one day meeting with (or even becoming) Bee Diddy.

David C Damsker, MD, MPH
Medical Director ~ Bucks County Health Department

Immunization News Flash

ATTENTION Medical Providers & Parents
PA SCHOOL LAW CHANGES
will take place in 2010 - 2011



DON'T WAIT ~ VACCINATE!



Att Parent Guardian
(2009).doc


To learn more visit
www.health.state.pa.us or click on
← the letter to Parents & Guardians.

Tdap/Td: NEW VIS CHANGE: A new interim Vaccine Information Statement that can be used for both **Td** and **Tdap** vaccines has been posted today. It is dated 11/18/08, and should be available on the CDC VIS web page
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>.



Decreased vaccination in schools leads to an increase in Pertussis cases according to author Saad B. Omer et al (July 2008).

Read the complete article here →


2008 AJE -
Geographic clustering

"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.

Coalition membership provides an 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.

Immunizing Those in Close Contact With Infants

Reported cases of Pertussis remain high in all age groups, with 75% of infant Pertussis cases being transmitted by a family member.

With minimal effort we can protect young children from this preventable disease by immunizing their contacts. Influenza can be a deadly disease in all age groups but especially in infants.

Bucks County Department of Health is targeting Pertussis and Influenza to decrease occurrence in our community.

Pertussis vaccination is no longer just for children, in 32% of cases, the mother was identified as the known or suspected source. Pertussis is highly communicable with a secondary attack rate of 80% in susceptible populations.

As a health care provider of parents, children, or families we ask that you talk about Pertussis and Influenza and stress the need for immunization.



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

January 2009 issue:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/news/newsletters/imwrks/2009/200901.htm>



Thanks for helping put it all together!



ADULT IMMUNIZATION SPORTS EVENT

Influenza Protection is the Goal Avoid the Penalty ~ Get the Shot

Thanks to all for helping put packets together!

A BCIC partnership with Bucks County School Nurse Association and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program provided 17,000 toolkits to parents of all fifth and tenth grade students throughout Bucks County.

A total of 7,500 fifth grade packets were sent out. These reviewed future school law changes and promoted vaccines for Middle School.

Tenth grade packets stressed the theme "Vaccinate Before you Graduate". There were 8,500 packets distributed to parents describing vaccines needed by adolescents between the ages of 11–18 years old.

Volunteers worked for hours to help get the message out to parents, providing them with important information to discuss with their physicians.

These were the two themes emphasized at a recent Philadelphia Flyer's game. BCIC along with other regional immunization coalitions recently participated in an Influenza awareness campaign. Those who purchased discounted tickets prior to this event received a T-shirts echoing our theme *Influenza Protection is the Goal - Avoid the Penalty, Get the Shot.*

We also had an Information table on the concourse highlighting: Faces of Influenza; Martin Flu Foundation; and Parents Pack first aid kits. Also we distributed coupons for free flu shots at participating county health departments. In addition to being listed as a group on the Jumbotron, two (30-second) videos were shown during the 1st and 2nd intermissions: Faces of Influenza video and CDC/Families Fighting Flu which emphasizes about the importance of immunizing children.

Recapping a prior event held this past August with the Phillies, we do have some exciting news to report. BCIC along with other regional immunization coalitions have an opportunity to present our efforts and achievements at a National Immunization Conference this spring.



Don't forget ~ mark your calendar!



IMMUNIZATION UPDATE FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

- The BCIC is sponsoring a program for Medical Assistants to review vaccine practices and immunization techniques.
- The program will be held on April 24 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and is open to the Office Medical Assistant who is involved with vaccine handling and administration.
- The program will be held in the Auditorium at the Bucks County Department of Health, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901.
- There is no cost however those interested in participating must register by calling Ann Gordon, MSN at 215-345-3477. Registration is limited to 20 people.
- A light continental breakfast will be provided.