



What's the Buzz?

The Newsletter of the Bucks County Immunization Coalition

www.bucksimmunize.org

Spring/Summer 2010



From the Desk of the Medical Director

In January 2010, a 2 month old in Montgomery County expired due to pertussis (whooping cough). This death may have been prevented if persons in close contact with the infant had received a booster dose of pertussis vaccine.

- Infants less than 6 months of age have the highest morbidity and mortality due to pertussis with the majority of cases and the highest number of deaths occurring in children less than 4 months of age, too young to be immunized. Since 1990, 93% to 100% of all pertussis related deaths in the US have occurred in this young infant population.
- Pertussis has been increasing in incidence in the adolescent and adult populations over the last 20 years with estimated cases between 800,000 and 3.3 million annually.
- The resurgence of pertussis is due at least in part, to missed opportunities to vaccinate and misconceptions that the disease no longer exists or does not occur in adolescents and adults.
- Studies have shown that infants are getting disease from the adolescents and adults around them.
- One way to protect these vulnerable infants is to vaccinate adults and adolescents with licensed acellular pertussis, Tdap, vaccines that are specifically formulated for use in these populations.
- **All persons between the ages of 11 and 64 years who have not previously received Tdap are recommended to be vaccinated with Tdap vaccine to protect them against pertussis. This is especially important for those persons who have close contact with young infants such as new postpartum mothers, fathers, family members, healthcare providers, etc.**

In 2009, Pennsylvania had over 560 cases of pertussis and over 45 cases were in Bucks County. Together we can fight the threat of pertussis, increase pertussis awareness and decrease the morbidity and mortality of the disease.

Immunization News Flash

PREVNAR 13: GET THE FACTS

CDC Commentary: Pneumococcal Disease in Children -- New Immunization Recommendations

Using Prevnar 13 (PCV13)

CLICK HERE FOR AN EASY TO USE PRINTABLE TABLE, GREAT FOR OFFICE USE.

HPV VACCINES: NEW EXPANDED RECOMMENDATIONS

Using HPV vaccines: Cervarix & Gardasil

CLICK HERE FOR AN EASY TO USE PRINTABLE TABLE, GREAT FOR OFFICE USE.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/default.htm

SCHOOL LAW: GET THE FACTS



DON'T WAIT ~ VACCINATE!

ATTENTION Medical Providers & Parents
PA SCHOOL LAW CHANGES
will take place in **2011 - 2012**



To learn more visit

www.health.state.pa.us or click on

C:\Att Parents.doc

← the letter to Parents & Guardians.

Important Dates and Events:

June is National Adolescent Immunization Awareness Month



C:\BCIC teen vaccination flyer.pdf

Click on the flyer and post in your office.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



2010 Phillies Game.doc

Come Celebrate National Immunization Awareness Month at the Phillies Game: click for more detail



The *Real Truth* about Childhood Vaccinations

Many parents have concerns and questions regarding vaccinations. Much of these concerns are heightened by misleading or incorrect information offered by the media. We, at the BCIC, would like to inform the public of the truth about childhood immunizations and hope to clear up any confusion.

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding vaccines:

Are Vaccines Really Necessary?

Vaccine preventable diseases are real. Older generations remember diseases like polio. Where the sickness was so devastating, people lined up to get vaccinated. Yet, today, people haven't heard of anyone getting sick with polio. The great irony of vaccine success is that parents today are unfamiliar with the diseases they prevent. Due to the success of vaccines, many of these diseases are not heard or spoken about. Just know, choosing not to vaccinate a child makes them susceptible to disease. With an unvaccinated child, sickness is always a threat.

Are we giving too many vaccines today?

More vaccines are actually a GOOD thing! Every new vaccine protects more kids from getting sick...expensive hospital stays...permanent injury or even death. More kids are prevented from getting devastating diseases than ever before, thanks to vaccines.

Look at it this way: Your child is exposed to thousands of germs on a daily basis. Exposing your child to five or eight different germs in the form of vaccines is a spit in the bucket, and young kids have a great immune response. Being exposed to these germs in the form of a vaccine allows our children's own immune system to produce antibodies against these diseases. Exposure to diseases in the form of vaccine is actually strengthening the child's immune system.

The goal is to protect children as quickly as possible from diseases that are very dangerous to young children.

What about getting several shots at once?

Before a vaccine is approved by the government, its safety is extensively studied. These studies look at how kids respond to the vaccine. Even though the number of shots has gone up, the actual load on the immune system has gone down. That's because today's vaccines are "smarter" and better engineered than the shots from decades ago. Remember...**Vaccines do not weaken the immune system, they boost it!**

Today's vaccines are smarter and safer and protect our children from devastating diseases.

Does the MMR vaccine cause autism?

The rumor began in 1998 when a British study of 8 children was conducted. They concluded that the combination MMR vaccine caused autism in those children. In March 2004, after numerous questions were raised regarding this particular study, the researchers withdrew their claim and stated, "No causal link" between the MMR vaccine and autism. Numerous studies have been completed since but the most compelling argument that MMR DOES NOT cause autism is what occurred in Japan. In 1993, the country completely stopped using the combination MMR vaccine. Rather than seeing a decrease in autism, the number of cases continued to rise. What Japan did suffer from as a result of those who chose not to vaccinate, was an increase number of children affected with measles, mumps, and rubella.

"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.



Don't forget ~ mark your calendar!



EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL PRACTICES

*The Bucks County Immunization Coalition and
The Bucks County Department of Health
cordially invites you to attend our:*

Medical Practice Education Program

Agenda topics include:

2010 Immunization Update and Changes

Tuberculosis and Tuberculin skin testing

*PA Statewide Immunization Information System
(SIIS)-Registry Program*

Date: Friday July 9, 2010

Time: 8:30 am to 12:30pm

Location: Bucks County DOH

1260 Almshouse Road

Almshouse building

4th floor conference room

Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Please RSVP by July 2nd:

Ann Gordon 215-345-3477