DHS

Oregon Immunization Bulletin

Special Edition

Oregon Immunization Program • Public Health Division

Summer 2008

Attention, Oregon providers!

An old foe has reappeared in Oregon. Pertussis cases have increased nationally, and have had an impact on many families throughout the state. Pertussis, endemic in most areas of the United States, is probably better known as "Whooping Cough" or the "100 Day Cough".

Pertussis often goes undiagnosed. The symptoms can be misleading since not every case involves the whooping sound. The disease has an incubation period of 7-10 days and can cause a wide array of symptoms, including: runny nose, difficulty breathing, fever, a mild to severe cough, and the well-known whooping of air struggling to pass through blocked airways. Many adults may be asymptomatic when infected and might only notice an annoying cough. In reality, adults are the sources for 80% of pertussis-positive infants.

Vaccines to protect children against pertussis have long been readily available. However, a child can't receive the first pertussis-containing vaccine until she reaches two months of age. Before this, a "high risk" period of no vaccine protection exists. Infants infected by pertussis when they are too young to have completed their primary vaccine series are almost always infected by the adults around them-their family, child care providers or even health care workers. These kids account for the majority of pertussis related complications, hospitalizations and deaths.

Older adults and those with compromised

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Federal Funding Update

Senator Gordon Smith has co-sponsored a request with Sen. Jack Reed to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, Committee on Appropriations asking for $802.5 million for the CDC 317 immunization program for FY 09. This program provides essential funding to state and local health departments for vaccinating children and adolescents. The CDC's immunization program is currently funded at $523 million. The FY 09 Budget proposes a reduction to $522 million.

The request, which is known on Capitol Hill as a "Dear Colleague" letter, was also signed by Senator Ron Wyden. Sen. Smith has co-sponsored letters on behalf of immunization funding since 2002 and Sen. Wyden has been a co-signer on all of them.

Sen. Smith is also a co-sponsor with Sen. Edward Kennedy for S 2465, the Vaccine Access of 2008 legislation. This legislation, along with its companion bill (HR 4990), would expand VFC eligibility in all public clinics to include underinsured children. Currently, vaccines given to underinsured children are paid for using 317 funds unless the vaccine is administered at a designated

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Tdap 7th Grade Requirement Starts This Fall

One dose of Tdap is required for all Oregon seventh graders for the 2008-2009 school year if it's been at least five years since their last tetanus-containing vaccine. Seventh graders without documentation of Tdap or an appropriate medical or religious exemption will be excluded from school on Exclusion Day.

While adolescents are getting their Tdap shot, it's a great opportunity to screen for all recommended adolescent immunizations. ALERT now forecasts for adolescent vaccines through 14 years of age.

Vaccines recommended for adolescents:

- Tdap (1 dose)
- Meningococcal Conjugate (1 dose)
- HPV (girls only, 3 doses)
- Influenza (all school-aged kids including adolescents, annually during flu season)

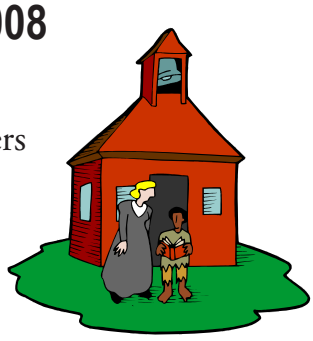
Many adolescents are also behind on these shots:

- Varicella #2
- Hepatitis A #1 and #2

Don't forget that Hepatitis A is now required for children in kindergarten, preschool, daycare, and Head Start (18 months of age and older). Kids who will be in grades 1-6 this fall will be required to have Hepatitis A vaccine by school year 2014-2015 as part of the phase-in schedule, so remember these pre-teens, too!

Remember to remind parents to update their children's immunization records at the school or childcare facility once they have received a shot so they won't be excluded!

School Exclusion 2008



Thanks to Oregon providers for keeping kids protected and in school! With your help, we achieved the lowest number of exclusions in over 10 years. The quick facts table to the right shows 2008 school exclusion data.

School Exclusion 2008: Quick Facts

- Number of children in Oregon schools, certified childcare facilities, preschools, and Head Starts: **655,964**
- Number of exclusion orders issued: **17,775**
- Number of children excluded: **2,420**
- Percent of children excluded: **0.37%**

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immune systems can also face expensive and dangerous complications like pneumonia and pulmonary hypertension.

Fortunately, two pertussis-containing vaccines intended to prevent pertussis infection in adolescents and adults are now available. Adacel® (licensed for 11-64 year olds) and Boostrix® (licensed for 10-18 year olds) provide protection against pertussis while also boosting immunity against tetanus and diphtheria.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends minimum spacing of at least two years between Td and Tdap. Shorter intervals can be used at the health care provider's discretion and may be appropriate for high-risk people or in outbreak settings. Persons getting a Tdap vaccination less than two years after their last Td should be advised of an increased risk of swelling and tenderness around the injection site. After receiving a Tdap injection, a Td booster should be administered every 10 years.

Questions? Contact Bryan Goodin at 971-673-0472 or visit www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/adults/Tdap.shtml for specific Tdap project information.

In order to stop the spread of pertussis and protect our vulnerable populations, the Oregon Immunization Program is offering Tdap vaccine to providers who wish to expand Tdap coverage in their community. Participating providers can order Tdap vaccine at no cost for use in persons not usually eligible for VFC vaccine. Since the project began in April, over 100 Oregon providers have launched a wide array of projects. Some examples include using Tdap for preparedness exercises, using student nurses and pharmacists as volunteer vaccinators as part of their clinical rotations, and offering Tdap to parents when they bring kids in for routine visits.

Participation in the Tdap Special Project requires that providers agree to follow routine vaccine storage and handling guidelines and submit all Special Project doses administered to the ALERT Immunization Information System. There are several methods available for dose submission, including:

- using barcodes to submit dose information on paper (best for clinics already using barcodes)
- spreadsheet for dose data entry from Vaccine Administration Records (for ways to submit the spreadsheet securely, contact Bryan Goodin to discuss the multiple options)
- online entry using the secure ALERT site. Users can enter data directly to ALERT without needing to transfer files. This method will be available soon
- IRIS data entry (this option is only for local health departments and their delegates)
- modifying your electronic medical records to upload doses to ALERT automatically (this option requires technical support for your specific electronic system and will not work for all EHRs or electronic claims software)

If you would like to become part of this great project, contact your health educator or the project lead Bryan Goodin at 971-673-0472 or bryan.goodin@state.or.us.

Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children

The Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children (OPIC) and the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) are partnering again to hold two regional OPIC Roundtable Meetings and VFC Trainings: September 23 in Medford and September 26 in Newport.

The guest speaker for both meetings will be Jay Rosenbloom, MD, PhD. Dr. Rosenbloom is a physician in private practice and represents the Oregon Pediatric Society on the OPIC Executive Committee.

In addition to Dr. Rosenbloom's presentation on working with vaccine hesitant parents, the agenda includes an ALERT Registry update, a VFC Training session, and an update on School Law.

Hope you are able to join us for an interesting and education-packed day!

Registration forms will be available in July. For more information, please contact OPIC Coordinator Karen R. Elliott at karen.r.elliott@state.or.us, phone 971-673-0283.

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Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC), or Community Health Center (CHC). Currently, about six percent of Oregon children aged 0-17 years are served in public clinics. This legislation will allow states to protect their limited 317 funds.

Thanks to Senator Smith for his ongoing support of immunizations!

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