

VACCINATE ADULTS!

from the Immunization Action Coalition — www.immunize.org

What's Inside?

Ask the Experts: CDC immunization experts answer your questions 1

IAC's Honor Roll Focuses on Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel 2

Vaccine Highlights: Recommendations, schedules, and more 4

Standing Orders for Administering Td/Tdap to Adults 5

Temperature Logs for Separate Refrigerator and Freezer Vaccine Storage Units 6

IAC's Storage and Handling Materials 7

Influenza Vaccine Products 2011–12 8

How to Administer Intramuscular, Intradermal, and Intranasal Influenza Vaccines 9

Influenza Education Materials 10

Standing Orders for Influenza Vaccines 11

Screening Questionnaire for Injectable Influenza Vaccination 12

Screening Questionnaire for Intranasal Influenza Vaccination 13

IAC's Immunization Resources Order Form 15

Immunization Action Coalition Receives Major Award from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), publisher of *Vaccinate Adults*, and the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are entering into a cooperative agreement with important implications for healthcare professionals and their patients. The award is for \$1.4 million over five years.

This cooperative agreement will support three of IAC's current key functions: (1) creation and distribution of weekly editions of *IAC Express* to IAC's email subscribers; (2) publication of "Ask the Experts," a forum in which CDC and IAC immunization experts answer questions from healthcare professionals who provide immunization services; and (3) creation of new immunization education materials designed to respond to the needs of immunization providers, parents, and patients. Importantly, the new agreement also makes IAC the nation's central clearinghouse for Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) in languages other than English. The award supports central coordination and distribution of VIS trans-

lations, as well as translation of a limited number of VISs.

VISs are the foundation of patient- and parent-centered vaccination delivery. Mandated by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, these information sheets help ensure that families receive essential information about each vaccine including, for example, the vaccine's benefits and potential side effects. Proper distribution of the VISs will inform vaccine recipients, or their parents or legal representatives, about the vaccine prior to receiving a dose. Providing this important information in a wide array of languages upholds IAC's and CDC/NCIRD's shared dedication to giving all Americans access to the vaccination information they need.

"This partnership between CDC and IAC will significantly improve the immunization information available to those patients and parents who are best communicated with in languages other than English," said IAC's Executive Director, Deborah Wexler, MD.

Ask the Experts

IAC extends thanks to our experts, medical epidemiologist Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH; nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN; and medical epidemiologist William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH. All are with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Has ACIP recommended the use of high-dose and intradermal influenza vaccines?

Yes, ACIP has recommended the use of high-dose and intradermal influenza vaccines, along with all other FDA-approved trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines (TIV). ACIP has not stated a preference

for any TIV product over another. The formulation or presentation a provider uses is the provider's choice as long as an age-appropriate product is used and is administered correctly. Providers need to choose the type of vaccine most appropriate for their patient population. The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) website has manufacturers' package inserts for every influenza vaccine product licensed for U.S. use during the 2011–12 influenza season. Go to www.immunize.org/packageinserts/pi_influenza.asp.

Can you explain the newest recommendation for vaccinating people with egg allergies?

Any allergic reaction to eggs severe enough to cause hives is a contraindication for LAIV; however, it is only a precaution for receipt of TIV. If the reaction consists of hives only, the person should be given TIV by a healthcare provider who is familiar with the potential manifestations of egg allergy. The person should also be observed for at least 30 minutes after being vaccinated. If the reaction includes more severe symptoms, including but not limited to swelling of the lips and throat, angioedema, lightheadedness, cardiovascular symptoms (e.g., hypotension), respiratory symptoms (e.g., wheezing), gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting), a history of required use of epinephrine following egg ingestion, or a history of

required emergency medical intervention, then the patient should be referred to a physician familiar with the management of allergic conditions.

How do you suggest we screen patients for potential egg allergy in our busy clinic?

People who indicate that they can eat lightly cooked eggs (e.g., scrambled eggs) without reaction are

(continued on page 14)



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Immunization questions?

- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636 or (800) CDC-INFO
- Email nipinfo@cdc.gov
- Call your state health dept. (phone numbers at www.immunize.org/coordinators)