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The VICNetwork Virtual Voice

June 2013

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CALENDAR

June 19-20, 2013
ACIP
Atlanta, GA

July 10-12, 2013
NACCHO Annual Conference
Dallas, TX

Aug 20-22, 2013

Multi-state Outbreak of Hepatitis A

As of June 17, 2013, the CDC is investigating acute hepatitis A illnesses in 118 people in eight states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington.

Hepatitis A linked to a frozen berry mix sold by Costco. Costco has removed Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berry mix from its shelves and Townsend has recalled the product. Hepatitis A is a liver disease usually caused when a person ingests fecal matter from contact with objects, food or drink. CDC's announcement is [here](#).

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is August

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The purpose of this observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th Century. The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) in collaboration with a team from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, is putting the final touches on a new NIAM communications toolkit.

The toolkit is designed to help public information officers and immunization program managers work together to communicate about the importance of immunizations during August. The toolkit will have messages and information that will highlight the importance of immunizations for a different population each week of the month:

- Week 1: Back to school (children)
- Week 2: Off to college (young adults)
- Week 3: Not just for kids (adults)

Health Communication,
Marketing, and Media
Atlanta, GA

September 22-24, 2013
NPHIC Annual Symposium
Chicago, IL

RESOURCES AND LINKS

[CDC Seasonal Flu Webpage](#)

[New Influenza
Recommendations from the
Advisory Council on
Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#)

[Flu.gov](#)

[National Influenza Summit
Website](#)

[Immunization Action Coalition
\(IAC's\) New and Information
Webpage](#)

[CDC Adolescent Immunization
Scheduler](#)

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- Week 4: A healthy start (babies & pregnant women)

Watch for a special announcement on this from NPHIC and the VICNetwork by the end of June!

National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing & Media August 20 - 22, 2013 in Atlanta Register Today!

The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) is pleased to announce the seventh annual National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media to be held **August 20 - 22, 2013** in Atlanta, GA.

This conference brings together individuals representing academia, public health researchers and practitioners from federal and state government and the private sector, and provides a forum for collegial dialogue within and across these disciplines. The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and shape the future of health communication, marketing, and media practice.

Registration is now open and information about agenda and hotel accommodations can be found at www.nphic.org. Some scholarships are available for employees of state and local public health agencies and deadline for application is June 21, 2013.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) - CDC Website

A novel coronavirus called "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus" (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads. The World Health Organization is urging health workers around the world to be on the alert for symptoms of the deadly Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS), which has the potential to circle the globe and cause a pandemic.

So far, there are no reports of anyone in the U.S. getting infected with MERS-CoV.

[Read more here.](#)

National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit - Recap

The 2013 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit was held May 14-16, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia and was attended by nearly 400 professionals from throughout the United States. The goal of the Summit is to bring together partners from a wide range of professionals from the healthcare industry, public health and private medical sectors, vaccine manufacturers and distributors, consumers, and others interested in stopping the transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Check here to view the agenda and presentations from the meeting.

Learn more about how to participate in the Summit at <http://www.preventinfluenza.org>.

ACIP Meets in Atlanta

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meets June 19-20, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia and although registration for attending the live meeting is closed, you may wish to view the webcast or listen by phone. For meeting agenda and instructions for viewing or listening to the meeting, go to the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>.

Voices for Vaccines

Voices for Vaccines (VFV) is a parent-driven organization supported by scientists, doctors, and public health officials that provides parents clear, science-based information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease, as well as an opportunity to join the national discussion about the importance of on-time vaccination and about protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

VFV provides a gathering place for parents who want to learn more about vaccines in an environment that supports evidence-based information and scientific integrity. The parents and organizers of VFV are very interested in working closely with other immunization advocates and public health professionals to spread the word about Voices For Vaccine and to learn about ways we can work together. Please go to their website and subscribe to their newsletter, 'Like' them on Facebook facebook.com/VoicesForVaccines and follow them on Twitter @Voices4Vaccines. For more information e-mail info@voicesforvaccines.org

Save the Date!

For the NPHIC Annual Symposium September 22-24 in Chicago. Watch for details at www.nphic.org website and follow them on Twitter @nphic to stay up to date!

The HealthMap Vaccine Finder

HealthMap Vaccine Finder <http://flushot.healthmap.org> is a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines. They work with partners such as clinics, pharmacies, and health departments to provide accurate and up-to-date information about receiving the flu vaccine and they have recently added information on finding 10 additional adult vaccines. Their goal is to make flu vaccination available to everyone by simplifying the process of choosing and finding a vaccine provider. In addition to locating vaccine services, users can track disease outbreaks and will find instructions on how to install Vaccine Finder widget on your website.

HealthMap is a team of researchers, epidemiologists and software developers at Boston Children's Hospital. For information or assistance, please contact them at vaccine@healthmap.org.

Immunization Action Coalition

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has a collection of apps for healthcare providers and their patients. Please go to

<http://www.immunize.org/resources/apps.asp>. The most recent app (currently only for Apple iPhone and iPad) is from The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). It includes a highly interactive immunization applet that lets physicians and patients learn about different vaccinations and determine the need for vaccines based on age, conditions, and special circumstances. The applet also includes information specific to immunization and pregnancy, frequently asked questions, alerts on immunization updates, regulations, and a list of resources.

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) is a national organization that works to increase immunization rates and prevent disease by creating and distributing educational materials for health professionals and the public that enhance the delivery of safe and effective immunization services. They are a treasure trove of publications, website, references, articles and explanations about vaccines. Go to www.immunize.org to view this valuable resource.

CDC Travel Update

The CDC has updated its travel website with pages for clinicians and travelers. Destination pages provide information on specific countries, including recommended vaccines and information about the relevant diseases. Travelers and clinicians can also select special populations to receive additional information about, including children and those who are immune compromised. The site can be accessed at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>.

As you know, there is always the potential for international travelers to bring home more than the usual 'souvenirs' from their overseas adventures. Travelers who are unprotected from vaccine preventable diseases, can and do return to the United States and unwittingly spread disease. There are several major outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases including rubella (Japan) and measles (Wales, Middle East). For example, so far this year, a total of 5,442 rubella cases have been reported through the rubella surveillance system in Japan, with 77% of cases occurring among adult males. (The MMWR article below provides updated information.) The VICNetwork encourages ongoing messages about making sure travelers are up to date on their routine vaccinations before they leave the country.

Immunization Strategies: Using the Evidence and What Works to Improve Practice

In an effort to promote best practices in improving vaccination rates, Public Health Foundation (PHF) provides the **Public Health Works: Immunization Strategies: Using the Evidence and What Works to Improve Practice**, a free on-demand training program. This training will benefit all State, Tribal, Local, And Territorial health department staff, health care personnel, and other public health professionals by demonstrating how the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and their community partners are using recommendations outlined in [The Guide to Community Preventive Services](#) and quality improvement techniques to improve immunization rates.

To participate in this training program, you will need to register and

sign up via [TRAIN](#) or by visiting the PHF & Public Health Works page for more information. Continuing Education (CME, CNE, CEU, CHES) is also available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Course No. WD2058).

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) - June 14, 2013

Nationwide Rubella Epidemic - Japan, 2013

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6223a1.htm>

Prevention of Measles, Rubella, Congenital Rubella Syndrome, and Mumps, 2013: Summary Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6204a1.htm>

Influenza Activity - United States, 2012-13 Season and Composition of the 2013-14 Influenza Vaccine

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6223a5.htm>

The **VIC Network** is a nationwide "virtual immunization community" of health educators, public health communicators and others who promote immunizations to exchange and share resources, materials and the best practices. This monthly e-update is designed to promote programs and events that will strengthen and build the network.

For more info or to submit an event or program e-mail

info@vicnetwork.org

The Virtual Immunization Communication (VIC) Network is a project of the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) and the California Immunization Coalition.

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