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The VICNetwork Virtual Voice

December 2012

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CALENDAR

- March 27, 2013
New Hampshire State IZ
Conference
- April 14-15, 2013
CIC Annual Summit
Los Angeles, CA
- June 3-6, 2013
National Immunization
Conference
Atlanta, GA
- Nov 2-6, 2013
APHA Annual Meeting
Boston, MA

RESOURCES AND LINKS

Save The Date For Next VICNetwork Webinar

Watch your Inbox in early January for information on registering for the next VICNetwork webinar on partnership development and communication strategies that will help you and your organization be effective leaders in immunization and public health.

Webinar will be held in late January - you won't want to miss it!

www.vicnetwork.org

Global Ban on Thimerosal Could Cost Lives

*Excerpted from communication from Amy Pisani, Exec Director, **Every Child by Two** and Editor, **Shot of Prevention***

The American Academy of Pediatrics has announced their endorsement of the recommendation of the World Health Organizations (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization pertaining to the use of thimerosal in vaccines. Three commentaries accompany their endorsement of the use of thimerosal in vaccines. The first titled "**Ban on Thimerosal in Draft Treaty on Mercury: Why the AAP's Position in 2012 Is So Important**" provides the rationale for the call for the removal of thimerosal from vaccines in 1999. The commentary concludes with this decisive statement;

The second commentary "**Global Vaccination Recommendations and Thimerosal**", includes the specific findings of experts on the devastating effects that a global ban on thimerosal would have on efforts to vaccinate children globally. Vaccines currently prevent more than 2.5 million deaths annually. Millions more could be saved if global vaccine efforts received the proper support. This ban would

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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have the opposite effect, resulting in the deaths of untold numbers of children worldwide.

While some believe it is unjust to allow thimerosal use in developing nations, the final commentary, titled "***Global Justice and the Proposed Ban on Thimerosal-Containing Vaccines***" counters that argument. The writers provide the rationale for opposing a ban on thimerosal in resource-poor countries based on the fact that current science does not support such a decision in 2012 and that there would be a certain loss of lives if such a decision were to be made.

For more information and links to these resources - go to <http://shotofprevention.com>.

Statewide Immunization Coalition Conference Dates in 2013

Two of our statewide Immunization Coalitions have announced their annual conferences/summit dates for 2013.

The California Immunization Coalition will meet in Los Angeles, California on April 14-15, 2013 - you can find more information here - www.immunizeca.org.

And the New Hampshire State Immunization Conference will take place in Manchester, NH on March 27, 2013 - www.nhipconference.com.

Send us information on your organization or Coalition events for 2013 and we'll be happy to spread the word.

Looking Ahead to 2013

On behalf of the VICNetwork and the National Public Health Information Coalition, we thank you for your support and participation this past year. We look forward to working with you and other public health partners to share important, timely information on immunizations, effective communication strategies for reaching the public and the media, and strengthening trust in public health and immunizations.

If you are not already receiving this newsletter directly, please let us know you want to be added to the VICNetwork to receive this bi-monthly newsletter and registration information for upcoming webinars.

Thank you!

~ The VICNetwork Team

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month is January

Cervical Cancer Awareness month is a good opportunity to promote

HPV vaccination and raise awareness about preventing cervical cancer. According to the CDC, approximately 70% of cervical cancers result from infection with two types of the HPV virus (HPV types 16 and 18). ShotByShot.org is an excellent resource for stories about cervical cancer and the website www.immunizationforwomen.org from the American College of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (ACOG) has a section dedicated to HPV vaccination along with all adolescent and adult vaccinations.

We also want to call your attention to a **new Medscape video featuring Dr. Paul Offit**, Director of the Vaccine Education Center. In this brief video he discusses HPV vaccine and boys. If you are not already a member of Medscape, registration is free.

Influenza Vaccinations For All Healthcare Workers

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recently passed a new statement of policy addressing Influenza Vaccinations for Healthcare Personnel. NACCHO urges health care employers and local health departments (LHDs) to require influenza vaccination for all staff as a condition of employment and stresses the importance of implementing prevention strategies that will reduce the spread of influenza infection among HCP and their patients to decrease the burden on the overall health care system.

Recommendations from NACCHO include the following:

- Establish comprehensive influenza infection prevention programs as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- Integrate influenza vaccination programs into existing infection prevention programs or occupational health programs;
- Use standardized methodology to measure HCP influenza rates across settings linking vaccine coverage levels and quality improvement activities and implement incentives, penalties, or requirements that facilitate adoption of vaccine coverage.

To read the full policy paper -

<http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/positions/upload/12-14-Influenza-Vax-for-Healthcare-Personnel.pdf>.

Save the Date - 2013 National Immunization Conference June 3-6 in Atlanta, GA

The 2013 National Immunization Conference (NIC) is scheduled for June 3-6, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

Information about abstract submission, registration and hotel will be posted on the **NIC website** as it becomes available.

2013 APHA Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts Now Open

The American Public Health Association's Call for Abstracts for its 141st Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held Nov. 2-6, 2013 in Boston is now open. The theme is *Think Global, Act Local* with a focus on best practices around the world. Find out more about the [2013 APHA Annual Meeting](#).

Top 8 Reasons to Join NPHIC

There are a host of reasons to join NPHIC. They are the premier organization for public health communicators. The networking opportunities membership provides is reason enough on its own to join. But you'll get a lot more out of joining NPHIC than that. Here are a few of the benefits.

Membership Directory

This list service is an effective networking tool providing current contact information, biographical sketches and top areas of expertise.

NPHIC.org

Our Web site is a key reference point for public health communicators. The NPHIC website has the most up-to-date information on the latest health issues, access to a discussion board, a comprehensive pandemic flu library and other valuable resources.

NPHIC News

The bi-monthly e-newsletter brings members interesting articles and information about the latest public health issues.

Public Health Campaigns and Projects

Members have numerous opportunities to work on important state and national public health campaigns.

CDC Epi-X Forum

Access to a Web-based information exchange system established by the CDC for public health professionals that allows information to be shared quickly and securely. Through NPHIC Epi-X Forum, the CDC can notify participants of breaking health events.

Annual Conference

The annual conference is held in the fall and is always informative and practical featuring top notch speakers and valuable training, and showcasing members' current work. NPHIC members attend at a discount!

The Media and You

Each new member receives a complimentary copy of this basic survival guide to media relations for public health communicators.

CDC / NPHIC Conference Calls

NPHIC members participate in bi-weekly conference calls between the CDC and NPHIC on such topics as pandemic flu preparedness, H1N1, New Media, Health Literacy, Immunization, etc.

[Join Today!](#)

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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