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Vaccinate Your Employees with MMR!

Don't wait until someone with measles presents at your clinic! **All persons who work in health care facilities in any capacity should have presumptive evidence of immunity to measles to prevent potential outbreaks!** Health care staff born in 1957 or later should have a documented record of 2 doses of measles vaccine (MMR), laboratory evidence of immunity, or laboratory confirmation of disease. This includes receptionists, administrative staff, maintenance staff, medical and nursing staff. Often administrative staff is overlooked, even though they have the same risk of exposure as medical personnel.

Some people born in the late 1950s and 1960s did not have the disease and did not receive measles vaccine as children and they remain susceptible. Many of them do not know they are susceptible. Measles vaccine was not licensed until 1963 and it was not required for school entry in Oklahoma until 1970. The school law was not strictly enforced until 1976.

Often employees 39 through 58 years of age, working as administrative and maintenance staff in clinics, do not have a vaccination record or laboratory evidence of immunity to measles. Not only can these employees develop measles and transmit it to patients, but measles is more severe in adults 20 years of age and older. Also, persons who received inactivated (killed) measles vaccine or measles vaccine of unknown type from 1963 through 1967 should be revaccinated with 2 doses of MMR vaccine.

Rushing to find vaccination records or performing laboratory testing on employees after a measles exposure can be very disruptive to a clinic. Having employees absent from work due to measles disease is even more disruptive and dangerous. **Don't wait; make sure your employees have the best protection now!**

For more information visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>.

ACIP Recommendations Published

Recommendations for the use of 9-valent HPV vaccine are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6411.pdf>.

National Infant Immunization Week

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will be held April 18–25 this year. NIIW is an annual observance to promote the benefits of childhood immunizations and improve the health of children age two years and younger. As part of NIIW, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently launched a *Born with Protection* campaign, to raise awareness of the third trimester Tdap vaccine recommendation, among pregnant women and prenatal healthcare professionals. By getting vaccinated in the third trimester of each pregnancy, mothers can pass antibodies to their babies to help protect them during their first few months of life when they are most vulnerable to pertussis disease and complications.

For more information visit the CDC's Pregnancy and Whooping Cough page at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html>.

Bill Atkinson, M.D., to Speak in Tulsa and OKC

In 2012, Dr. Atkinson retired from the CDC after 25 years of service. At the time of his retirement, he was medical epidemiologist and training team lead, Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), a position he held for 17 years. In 1995, he conceived, developed, and took the lead in writing one of CDC's most widely sought-after books, *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (aka the Pink Book). He is currently an independent consultant for Immunization Education and Training and Director for Immunization Education for the Immunization Action Coalition, St. Paul, MN.

Dr. Atkinson is scheduled to speak at the Tulsa Area Immunization Coalition meeting on Wednesday May 27, 2015 at: OSU–Tulsa Center for Health Sciences, 1111 W. 17th Street, Tulsa, OK, in the 2nd Floor Auditorium, Room D-107 from noon to 1:00 pm.

He will speak in Oklahoma City on Thursday May 28th from noon to 1:15 pm at: OU Children's Hospital, Samis Education Center, sponsored by the Oklahoma County Immunization Coalition. Everyone is welcome at both events. You won't want to miss it!!