Measles in the U.S.

From January 1st to May 30th, 2014, 334 measles cases and outbreaks were reported in 18 states, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington. The 16 outbreaks represent 77% of reported cases this year. Annual reported cases have ranged from a low of 37 in 2004 to a high of 220 in 2011.

The increased measles activity in Washington this year is consistent with what is happening nationally. Of the 15 cases in WA, 2 cases had a history of 2 MMR’s, 3 cases had unknown vaccine history, and 10 cases were unimmunized. The age ranges of the WA cases range from 1-57 years of age.

This year’s measles activity in WA can be described geographically as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Focus in WA</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Geographic source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whatcom outbreak</td>
<td>6 cases</td>
<td>Netherlands via B.C. Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan outbreak</td>
<td>7 cases (includes 1 Kitsap case)</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit</td>
<td>1 case</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish</td>
<td>1 case (diagnosed in CA)</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source– WA State DOH Epidemiology Division, Jackie Dawson, Public Health Epidemiologist
Q & A

Q: For the purpose of vaccine spacing, what constitutes a month: 28 days (4 weeks), 30 days, or 31 days?

A: For intervals of 3 months or less, you should use 28 days (4 weeks) as a “month.” For intervals of 4 months or longer, you should consider a month a “calendar month”: the interval from one calendar date to the next a month later.

Q: At what gestational age of pregnancy should we vaccinate pregnant women with Tdap?

A: To maximize maternal antibody response and a passive transfer to the infant, the optimal time is between 27-36 weeks. However, it can be administered at any time during pregnancy. Previously, CDC recommended that it be given after 20 weeks gestation.

Q: Is PPV23 contraindicated in pregnancy?

A: No– According to the 2014 adult immunization schedule, PPSV23 is recommended during pregnancy if some other risk factor is present (e.g. on the basis of medical, occupational, lifestyle, or other indications).

Making the case for HPV vaccination!

In the U.S., there are currently 79 million people infected with HPV. There are 14 million new cases annually. There are 10,000 cases of cervical cancer each year. 360,000 people get genital warts each year. 21,000 HPV-related cancers could be prevented by getting the HPV vaccine.

These numbers give reason for providers to make a strong recommendation for HPV vaccination. Moms report that not getting a strong provider recommendation is a barrier. Providers often underestimate the value parents place on vaccines. If vaccination is important to the parent and the provider makes a strong recommendation, the parent is more likely to choose vaccination.

The top 5 reasons parents do not get their children vaccinated against HPV are:
1– not needed
2– provider did not recommend
3– safety concerns
4– lack of knowledge about the disease and/or vaccine
5– child is not sexually active

Many providers are hesitant to engage with parents who have questions. Some providers even share parents’ views that teens are not at risk.

How can you communicate the importance of HPV vaccination with parents? Present the vaccine as recommended, not optional or new. Tell parents the vaccine is cancer prevention! Use plain language to describe the vaccine (i.e. it is safe, there are no serious safety concerns, vaccinating early is important). Place importance on all vaccines. Target education to teens– don’t underestimate their value of vaccination.

The CDC has a great HPV vaccine poster. The link to it is below.


Source: Jill Roark, MPH, Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH, CDC, Immunization Services Division
2014 thermometer calibration requirements

Using accurate thermometers protects your vaccine. The CDC requires the use of thermometers with a current certificate of calibration for monitoring temperatures in every vaccine storage unit. The thermometers must be calibrated by an ILAC/MRA accredited laboratory OR to ISO-17025 standards. Providers should recalibrate the thermometers based on manufacturer recommendations. If the manufacturer doesn’t specify a recalibration date, the provider is required to recalibrate the thermometer within 2 years of the purchase date.

Below is a summary of what the calibration certificate must contain. If your thermometer certificates don’t meet the requirements, contact me for further guidance.

EITHER:
1) Come from an ILAC-accredited laboratory and contain all of the below items:
   - Name of Device (optional)
   - Model Number
   - Serial Number
   - Date of Calibration (report or issue date)
   - Measurement results indicate unit passed test and the documented uncertainty is within suitable limits
     (recommended uncertainty +/-1F or +/-0.5C)

2) If from a non-ILAC accredited laboratory it must contain all of the below items:
   - Name of Device (optional)
   - Model Number
   - Serial Number
   - Date of Calibration (report or issue date)
   - Measurement results indicate unit passed test and the documented uncertainty is within suitable limits
     (recommended uncertainty +/-1F or +/-0.5C)
   - Measurement results for the device
   - A statement that calibration testing conforms to ISO 17025

Staff resources

All medical students, residents, physicians, and healthcare personnel, and anyone providing vaccines or vaccine information should have readily available and reliable information about all routine vaccines. Shots Online for PCs and Shots Immunizations mobile app for iPhone and Android devices, now released in 2014 versions by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), serve this purpose exceptionally well.

HPV Resources from CDC
Tips and Time-savers for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine You Are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention campaign web section

IAC Resources
IAC updates "Questions Parents Ask About Vaccinations for Babies"
IAC updates sample standing orders templates for administering meningococcal and varicella vaccines to children and teens
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