

Weekly Email Updates August 25, 2010

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a great summer and are refreshed for the coming school year. This e-mail will be in **three** parts as there are so many attachments. (Everyone wants to send you their information....!)

There will be no weekly e-mail next week, and I will resume sending them the following week.

1. IMPORTANT: New Epinephrine Reporting Form: Attached is the new epinephrine administration reporting form. Please begin using it this school year.

This form was developed by Barbara Mackey with input from the School Health Unit, Regional Consultant schools, Dr. Michael Pistiner, CHMC, and Dr. Wayne Shreffler, MGH. In addition, we received feedback from school nurses across the Commonwealth about issues that should be tracked. We tried very hard to make it easier to complete by using many items that just require a check mark.

Our hope is to continue to promote the care of children with life threatening allergies in all settings.

We want to thank you for all your invaluable work to safeguard these children in FY10. There were 225 epinephrine administrations in the Commonwealth's schools---all outcomes were positive. The report will be issued this fall, and we hope you will share it widely.

Local health and school officials are encouraged to work together this fall to ensure that as many children as possible are protected against the spread of influenza in the coming year. This year we hope to build on the excellent collaboration between local health and school departments that was established during last year's H1N1 response in so many communities across Massachusetts.

2. IMPORTANT--Conference Call on Seasonal Flu: Local health and school officials are encouraged to work together this fall to ensure that as many children as possible are protected against the spread of influenza in the coming year. This year we hope to build on the excellent collaboration between local health and school departments that was established during last year's H1N1 response in so many communities across Massachusetts. DPH has organized a conference call to share information with local health and school officials about the 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccination effort. Representatives from DPH, DESE, and local health and schools will be on the call to share information about vaccine availability, reimbursement, and other issues; and to answer questions. Local health officials are encouraged to contact their community's school Superintendent and/or School Nurse Leader and invite them to join you for the call.

The agenda for the call will include:

- update from DPH on vaccine availability and reimbursement
- planning for fall flu clinics
- review of school guidance for 2010-2011
- Q&A session

Date: Tuesday September 14, 2010 Time: 3:30 PM Call in #: 1-800-857-2875 Code: Public Health

3. Information on Flu Vaccine from MedImmune: Attached are the 2 pieces of information regarding flu vaccine. The first is that doses are available for all school programs.... the second is the allocation letter...

As far as resources for ANY school program: I am more than willing to provide an in-service/support services for anyone who is interested in conducting a school located influenza clinic. As you know, MedImmune has been successfully involved in school programs for over 6 years now. We have entire states doing school programs. As each school/community is unique, there is not a "One-size-fits-all" strategy. However, we have many resources to plan and execute successful school programs.

www.teachfluaesson.com is a good starting place for resources. My job is to help those nurses who would like to conduct clinics but are not really sure how it all works. They can reach me by email or phone any time...

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you and/or school nurses.

All the best, Lenny Demers, Regional Public Health Manager, MA, MedImmune
508-341-2709 (cell), demersl@medimmune.com, www.teachfluaesson.com, www.flumist.com
www.goodtoshare.com

4. Congratulations everyone! According to the MMWR, only 4 states (MA, CT, RI and NH) had coverage of >60% for all 3 routinely recommended adolescent vaccines.

Susan M. Lett, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Immunization Program, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 617-983-6823 susan.lett@state.ma.us

5. Diabetes Prevalence Data: Sent Previously: We have posted on the web, the Diabetes prevalence report for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 based on the information we received from school nurses across the Commonwealth. You can locate the report at the link below. Please share with your school health network.

And a sincere thank you to you and all the school nurses for their help in this project.

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=6&L0=Home&L1=Consumer&L2=Community+Health+and+Safety&L3=Environmental+Health&L4=Environmental+Health+Investigations&L5=Diabetes+Prevalence&sid=Eeohhs2&b=rminalcontent&f=dph_environmental_c_investigations_diabetes_prev_0709&csid=Eeohhs2

6. Heart and Stroke Data by Community: Here is the heart disease and stroke data by Massachusetts communities. The mortality data and hospitalization data are given in both counts and age-adjusted rates. The mortality data is from 2007 and the hospitalization is 2008, which is the most recent that we have. Many school districts are using this when they present their BMI data---obesity in children has great implications for the whole community. We urge you to share your aggregate data with such stakeholders as the following. Healthy nutrition and physical activity is a community issue and all need to know the scope of the problem.

- a. School administrators who make policy
- b. School committees
- c. Health educators, food service personnel, athletic directors, teachers and others who may impact healthy nutrition and physical activity within the school setting.
- d. Local boards of health
- e. Parent teacher Associations and site-based councils of parents.
- f. Municipal leadership
- g. Local primary care providers, hospitals and other health care institutions
- h. Local and regional planners

Of note is that we are preparing a report to the Public Health Council on September 8 using the FY09 BMI data

7. Requests from Schools:

- **Perkins School for the Blind:** Full time RN position (DESE licensed) available at Perkins School for the Blind. The schedule is Mon-Fri 10am-6:30pm. If you are interested please contact the Human Resources department at 617 972-7210. Adria Hodas MSN, RN,C FNP, Nurse Manager, Perkins School for the Blind, 617 972-7585, Adria.Hodas@Perkins.Org

8. Passage of New Legislation: As you may know, this has been an active legislative year for schools with laws on (a) harassment (attached), (b) school nutrition and (c) head injuries (attached). We will send you further information regarding regulations, etc., as they are developed.

Part 1

1. New epinephrine reporting form--sent earlier
2. Save the date--vaccine preventable disease conferences
3. Registration form for vaccine preventable diseases
4. Letter from Dr. DeMaria regarding vaccination

5. Approved seasonal flu vaccine allocation

6. Adolescent vaccine coverage--congratulations to all!
7. Directions to vaccine preventable disease conference locations
8. Flu vaccine availability

Part 2

9. Article--vaccine administered to school-age children

10. MIAP Conference Brochure
11. Seasonal influenza CPT codes
12. ANA Immunization news
13. Article on PTSD--Katrina
14. MMRW--Heat illness

15. ADA conference on diabetes
16. Boston Back to School Invitation--for parents and providers of children with sickle cell disease (A joint effort of the Boston hospitals)

Part 3
17. Brochure of CHMC conferences this fall
18. Neuroscience conference
19. Sports injury brochure
20. Patient education program--autism--
21. PowerPoint--an act relative to harassment

22. Law related to harassment
23. Webinar on schools chemical cleanout
24. Heart disease and stroke data by MA community
25. IMPORTANT--MA take back--medications
26. Law on head injuries

We hope your "re-entry" will go smoothly---and may you enjoy the end of summer!