

## DPH School Health Unit Weekly Email Updates 8/4/10

This will be a shorter-than-usual e-mail for the week. There will be an update next week but I am not sure about 8/20 as we have the Summer School Health Institute/Leadership Academy.

1. The 2007-2008 Pediatric Asthma report is now available online. To view, go to [http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/environmental/tracking/asthma\\_07\\_08.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/environmental/tracking/asthma_07_08.pdf).

Thank you to all the school nurses who have helped to make this surveillance effort such a success---we are the only state in the country that completes this annual surveillance. For further information contact: Frances Medaglia PhD, MSN, ANP, BC, Bureau of Environmental Health, MA Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, 7th floor, Boston, MA 02108, 617-624-5757 [frances.medaglia@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:frances.medaglia@massmail.state.ma.us)

### 2. Optional: Disability Sexual Abuse Survey

A survey has been developed to gather information to learn more about the sexual harassment and abuse of special education students in schools. Through this research, I hope to gather vital information, never before systematically collected, which will assess the extent of abuse in educational settings and enable us to protect this victimized population. The survey is designed to gather information on individuals with disabilities who have ever been sexually abused in a school setting. Parents, guardians, advocates and caregivers of students with disabilities are asked to respond to my web-based survey, on behalf of the victimized student. If an individual chooses to respond on behalf of more than one student, she/he can feel free to take the survey more than once. Adult survivors of abuse are asked to complete the survey for themselves. The survey is anonymous: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/abuse\\_studentswithdisabilities](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/abuse_studentswithdisabilities).

information provided is as a service to members of The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). NOVA is a private, non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization of victim and witness assistance programs and practitioners, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services.

### 3. Requests from Schools:

**Holyoke Public Schools:** I would like to know if any other school districts currently have a DNR (Comfort Care Only) Policy in place in their schools. I have been working on changing Holyoke's current practice for over a year now. Our superintendent retired in June and the new Superintendent is interested in moving forward with this policy. I have researched information with the National School Boards librarian, but it would really be helpful to know what other Massachusetts districts are doing and have for policy. Thank you so much for your help via the emails. Lois Keefe, Holyoke Public Schools, Nursing Supervisor [lkeefe@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:lkeefe@hps.holyoke.ma.us) FAX: 413-540-2409

**Medford Public Schools:** 2 full-time school nurse positions. One is at the high school, the other an elementary school. Candidates need to meet requirements for school nursing in MA: BSN, current MA license as a registered nurse, DESE license as a school nurse or eligibility for same. Please forward resume to: Eileen DiBattista, Supervisor of Health, 489 Winthrop St., Medford, MA 02155 or email: [edibattista@medford.k12.ma.us](mailto:edibattista@medford.k12.ma.us)

**Amesbury Public Schools:** We are looking for a nurse (RN or LPN) to cover the summer program for 4 days this summer. Monday and Tuesday: 8/9 + 10; Monday and Tuesday: 8/16 + 17. The program runs out of an elementary school, and runs for approximately 3 hours each day, ending at noon. If somebody is interested they should contact me immediately at 978 766 0559. Jane Finger, Secondary Coordinator of Special Education, Amesbury Public Schools, 10 Congress St., Amesbury, MA 01913, (978) 388-0531 x 20, (978) 388-7224 (fax) "Please note I have a new, simpler email address: [fingerj@amesburyma.gov](mailto:fingerj@amesburyma.gov)"

**3. Teach Flu A Lesson:** We have recently updated all our "Teach Flu a Lesson" information on-line. There are lots of new resources available - all on-line...

For example, there is a PP on "The Importance of Vaccinating School-Aged Children against the Flu". [http://www.teachflualesson.com/downloads/Planning/Presentation\\_en.pdf](http://www.teachflualesson.com/downloads/Planning/Presentation_en.pdf)

Other resources include many downloads...

<http://www.teachflualesson.com/downloads.html> Please feel free to pass along to anyone who may be interested.

Kind regards, Lenny Demers, Regional Public Health Manager, MA, MedImmune, 508-341-2709 (cell) [demersl@medimmune.com](mailto:demersl@medimmune.com), [www.teachflualesson.com](http://www.teachflualesson.com), [www.flumist.com](http://www.flumist.com), [www.goodtoshare.com](http://www.goodtoshare.com)

#### 4. Pertussis News from California:

##### Largest whooping cough outbreak in decades kills six infants

In the midst of the largest whooping cough outbreak in more than 50 years — and the death of six infants under 3 months of age — California health officials are recommending booster shots for nearly everyone in the state, especially healthcare workers, parents and anyone who may come in contact with babies.

**5. IMPORTANT:** It looks like communities will be able to get reimbursed for the cost of administering seasonal flu vaccine to members of participating insurance plans in public health and school clinics.

Please see the attached training schedule. Donna Lazorik, RN, MS, Immunization Program, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 617-983-6821

**6. School-Based Asthma Management Programs:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) is looking for local education agencies/school districts with a school-based asthma management program that has a component which currently links students with asthma to asthma health care providers in their communities. CDC is interested in gaining a better understanding of such programs and will be conducting site visits with selected school districts to learn more about them. CDC may offer assistance in evaluating the programs based on these site visits.

To nominate a program, please click on the link below to download and complete the nomination form:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/evaluation/rapid/nominations.htm>

The submission deadline is Friday, August 13, 2010. The nomination form will ask for contact information and certain details of the program to determine initial eligibility. You need not go into great detail in your responses. CDC may follow-up by phone with further questions. If you would like additional information on this project please contact

Rich Dunville, MPH. (e-mail: [RDunville@cdc.gov](mailto:RDunville@cdc.gov), 770-488-6212 phone).

**7. IMPORTANT:** We have gotten some feedback that some school nurses are reticent to share the aggregate BMI results because of FERPA issues. These are aggregate data and FERPA/HIPAA do not apply. It is really important that you share your aggregate data with all the stakeholders---school administrators, boards of health, school boards, PCPs, local hospitals, parent groups, etc., so that they may all unite to address this problem.

#### Attachments:

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| 1. Immunization reimbursement trainings | 5. Guidance on Seasonal Flu Immunizations     |
| 2. Vaccination restitution policy       | 6. Healthy Communities Matter--               |
| 3. ANA Immunization News                | 7. MA Coordinated School Health Announcements |
| 4. MMRW Prevention of Flu with Vaccines | 8. Sexing research                            |

Have a good weekend!

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