



Allegheny County Immunization Coalition
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Virtual Zoom Meeting
January 21, 2021 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Guest Presenter – Kristen Thorson (MSL Sanofi Pasteur) – “Vaccination Rates Pre and Post Pandemic” (Can be reached for questions at 717-254-9157 or Kristen.Thorson@sanofi.com)
 - a. Presented an update to the June 2020 AIC discussion about re-establishing immunization rates that have declined since the pandemic.
Over the summer and during the fall, infants and young children have been prioritized for well visits and vaccine catch up.
However, there is a general thought that adolescent and adult vaccine catch up may be lagging.
Commercial claims data comparing the same time period pre and post COVID was evaluated for Tdap and MenACWY vaccines in adolescents and adults.
 - b. Pertussis Containing Vaccines:**
 - i. As a reminder; ACIP recommends:
 1. Tdap single dose between 11-18 years of age (preferably at preventative care visit at 11-12 yrs of age)
 2. Persons ≥ 19 yrs who have never received a dose of Tdap should receive one regardless of interval since last Td containing vaccine followed by a booster (Tdap or Td) every 10 years through out life.
 3. Pregnant women get Tdap each pregnancy preferably at 27-36 weeks gestation.
 - ii. **Pre-Pandemic** baselines for adult VCR were not optimal for Tdap:
 1. Adults 19-64yrs in 2017 = 33% got Tdap
 2. Health care workers: Nationally, only ~46% have Tdap coverage
 3. Pregnant women, despite recommendation since 2012, only 54% of pregnant women got Tdap in 2018
 - iii. **Pre-Pandemic** baselines for adolescents (13-18 yrs) Tdap immunization rates were decent (~89% in 2018)
 - iv. **Post-Pandemic** VCR per commercial claims data for Tdap (2020 vs 2019):
 1. 10-18yrs of age: -12% Nationally; - 28% for PA

2. 19-64yrs of age: -26% nationally; -27% for PA
- v. Why do we care about pertussis in older children and adults?
 1. Bordetella pertussis is highly transmissible.
 2. Clinical manifestations in older children and adults include prolonged cough, paroxysm that may lead to emesis and disrupted sleep (high morbidity=missed work/school etc)
 3. Mothers and siblings are common source of infection for young infants
 4. Young infants are susceptible to severe pertussis infection, hospitalization, complication and death (too young to be vaccinated, immature immune and pulm systems)
- vi. For this reason DTaP and Tdap are recommended across the age spectrum

c. Meningococcal Disease and Vaccines:

- i. As a reminder; ACIP recommends:
 1. MenACWY vaccine for adolescents starting at 11-12 years of age
 2. MenACWY booster at 16 years
 3. MenACWY for persons >2months at high risk for meningococcal disease
- ii. **Pre-Pandemic** baselines for adolescent VCR for MenACWY:
 1. National and PA did well with first dose (>87% coverage for MenACWY)
 2. 2nd dose MenACWY rates are very poor (~50% coverage for MenACWY)
 3. This leaves millions of adolescents under-immunized during years when they are high risk (16-23 yrs of age)
- iii. **Post-Pandemic** VCR per commercial claims data for MenACWY (2020 vs 2019):
 1. 11-12 yrs of age: -18% Nationally; - 28% for PA
 2. 16-18 yrs of age: -16% nationally; -27% for PA
- iv. Why do we care about meningococcal disease in adolescents and young adults?
 1. Neisseria meningitidis causes meningococcal disease (there are 5 serotypes: A, B, C, W, Y that comprise most disease worldwide)
 2. Transmission occurs via resp droplets; leading to colonization of the nasopharynx. People may be colonized with no infection and no signs and symptoms.
 3. If/When invasive disease occurs; the bacteria enters the blood stream and may lead to meningitis +/- septicemia
 4. Initial meningococcal disease symptoms are non-specific (HA, Sore throat, aches, fever) but quickly can progress to more specific

manifestations such as drowsiness, nuchal rigidity, photophobia, cold hands/feet, altered mental status and loss of consciousness.

- v. Bottomline: meningitis disease is RARE, but unpredictable and affects mostly previously healthy persons. It is difficult to diagnose early and rapidly progresses, potentially fatal with devastating consequences to survivors.
 - 1. For this reason, the 2nd booster at ~ 16 years is recommended to protect older teens during “college” years when they are at high risk and this is the dose that is commonly missed or delayed.

d. Summary:

- i. Adult vaccination rates for Tdap were generally low pre-COVID and they appear to have worsened during the pandemic.
- ii. Adolescent vaccination rates for Tdap were decent pre-COVID but appear to have declined per commercial claims data. Focus on re-establishing Tdap with catch up.
- iii. Pre-COVID adolescent vaccination rates for MenACWY first dose was good but booster doses rates were very poor. Declines noted in both MenACWY doses according to commercial claims data.
- iv. PA appears to be lagging national trends with greater coverage deficits (per commercial claims data)
- v. All Health Care Providers (whether they provide vaccines or not) should:
- vi. ASSESS immunization status at EVERY encounter
- vii. Strongly RECOMMEND vaccines to patients
- viii. ADMINISTER vaccine or REFER your patients for vaccination
- ix. DOCUMENT vaccines received in states immunization registry.

3. ACHD Update

- a. Andrea Collins gave estimated COVID-19 numbers and flu numbers for the season

4. Fall Conference Update

- a. Review of conference
- b. Announced Mary Schubert’s retirement
- c. Reviewed questionnaire responses

5. Election Update – Elections will be held in May 2021!

- a. We are an ALL VOLUNTEER organization and we do encourage running for all positions for the upcoming elections!

Chairperson

- 1. Janina-Marie “Nina” Tatar

Chairperson-Elect

- 1. Position is vacant.

Secretary

- 1. Andrea Collins

Treasurer

- 1. Lynette Hathaway

Members-at-Large

1. Terri Lee Roberts
2. Carol Dougher
3. Nancy Kaminski
4. Mary Kathryn Bair

Coalition Nurse Advisor

1. Renee Miller

Work Groups:

Blog Chair

1. Cindy Callaghan

Conference Planning Committee

1. Nancy Kaminski
2. Cindy Callaghan
3. Mary Kathryn Bair
4. RK Bair

Poster Reviewer

1. Khlood Salman

6. Below are the remaining **General Membership Meeting dates for 2021:**
 - a. April 22nd
 - b. July 15th
 - c. September 23rd
 - d. Tentative Conference Date: November 3rd
 - e. December 9th
7. Amy Wishner of PAIC asked to share this update with everyone regarding COVID-19 vaccines:

Webinar - COVID Vaccines for Children

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

8-9 PM in the evening

Free, CME/CEU

Presenter: Jeffrey S Gerber, MD, PhD, FAAP

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Register here: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTA1OTc0

This virtual town hall from Montgomery County was excellent! Highly recommended! Relevant to all but especially the Delaware Valley.

Facts Not Fear: COVID-19 Vaccines and the Black Community. The recording of the event:

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3t1crEfSnA>
- Facebook: <https://fb.watch/3aD1k0Sed/>

Impact of COVID-19 on influenza

You all are probably aware that influenza disease has been lower this flu season than in previous ones. For sure, masking, social distancing, school closures, decreased group interactions – all relate to decreased droplet-spread illnesses of all kinds including influenza. Also, people likely are seeking fewer tests as they have skipped many kinds of medical visits. There is also possible interaction between the COVID-19 and influenza viruses.

As of 1/21/21, there has been one pediatric flu death in the U.S. In a few months, we will have a better picture of how much flu vaccine was given this flu season. I will be checking in with all of you to see what

you are hearing in your region about what people are thinking about flu vaccines and flu disease. Has COVID-19 made influenza disease seem like something you can prevent when you can't prevent so many other viruses? Flu vaccine seem like something you don't really need because there wasn't that much flu around this year? Misconceptions that either increased or decreased? I know that Families Fighting Flu (<https://www.familiesfightingflu.org/>) is very concerned about this. Hopefully, there will also be research coming out on this topic.

There is an interesting article in *Nature* on many other possible implications of the COVID-19-influenza interaction. Among these is that the lower incidence of influenza disease may make it harder to figure out the components of next year's flu vaccine. See the article: "How COVID-19 is changing the cold and flu season." *Nature* 588, 388-390 (2020). <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03519-3>

Looking ahead to National Infant Immunization Week April 26-May 3, 2021.

Chester County Immunization Coalition is considering purchasing copies of the following book and sending them with a cover letter to local libraries and Head Start programs in Chester County. *Ava Antibody Explains Your Body and Vaccines* is a book for children that describes how antibodies work using simple prose and fun illustrations. The story by Andrea Cudd Alemanni introduces Will, who gets chickenpox disease, and Ashley, who gets vaccinated and is, therefore, protected from chickenpox. The book also explains how vaccination protects others by introducing Ashley's friend, Amara, and her baby brother, who is too young to be vaccinated.

Available at: Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Antibody-Explains-Your-Body-Vaccines/dp/1733421009>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/ava-antibody-explains-your-body-and-vaccines-andrea-cudd-alemanni/1137360548>

And your local independent bookstore.

Excellent common COVID-19 vaccine Q & A.

Will the Vaccine Alter My Genes?' -- and Other Patient

FAQs - Medscape - Jan 21, 2021. https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/944213?src=wnl_edit_tpal&uac=96771HN&implID=3147810&faf=1#vp_2

(Spoiler alert- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do NOT alter your genes.)

There is **no central registration database in PA where people can sign up to be notified when and where they can obtain COVID vaccine**. In the meantime, if you can keep PAIC notified about where in your county people can register or sign up for COVID vaccine appointments, that would be great. I receive several phone calls or emails each day from people across PA wanting this info. I refer them to the PA Dept of Health COVID vaccine map and help them navigate it, and plus share info from the attached database PAIC has developed. Our current database is attached.