

**News & Summaries****Dr. Stephen Rinderknecht Honored as Childhood Immunization Champion**

**Stephen Rinderknecht, DO**  
**Pediatrician**  
**Iowa Health Physicians**  
**and Clinics**  
**Waukee, IA**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Childhood Immunization Champion Award, given jointly by the CDC and the CDC Foundation, honors individuals who are doing an exemplary job or going above and beyond to promote or foster childhood immunizations in their communities.

In this inaugural year, Dr. Rinderknecht is honored as Iowa's CDC Childhood Immunization Champion.

Dr. Stephen Rinderknecht has achieved 91 percent immunization coverage for two-year-old children in his clinic, which is above the overall state coverage rate of 64 percent. One of the reasons for his success, according to his colleagues, is that he treats each child as "the most important child in the world."

In addition to providing personal attention to each young patient at Iowa Health Physicians and Clinics, one of Iowa's largest health care organizations, Dr. Rinderknecht routinely promotes the state's immunization registry and volunteers to speak to mothers' groups about the importance of immunizing their children.

Dr. Rinderknecht is also dedicated to educating physicians and nurses about vaccination. As chairman of the Immunization Task Force for Iowa Health Physicians, he is a frequent presenter at medical, nursing, and public health conferences throughout the state. He also serves as an assistant professor of Pediatrics at Des Moines University and as an attending physician for the pediatric residency program at Blank Children's Hospital.

Dr. Rinderknecht is keenly interested in studying pediatric infectious disease, and as a result has participated in vaccine safety and efficacy clinical trials, including those focusing on rotavirus, meningococcal conjugate, and new combination vaccines.

This steadfast commitment to preventing disease in children through leadership, education, and advocacy of immunization issues is what makes Dr. Rinderknecht a model immunization partner for the state, his medical system, the community, and his patients. It also makes him a CDC Childhood Immunization Champion.

## *Vaccine Highlight*

### **Guidance for Preventing Fainting and Associated Injuries after Vaccination**

Immunization providers should be aware of the potential for syncope, or fainting, associated with vaccination, particularly among adolescents. The CDC's [General Recommendations on Immunization: A Report of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) states, "Vaccine providers, particularly when vaccinating adolescents, should consider observing patients (with patients seated or lying down) for 15 minutes after vaccination to decrease the risk for injury should they faint. If syncope develops, patients should be observed until the symptoms resolve."

Providers should take appropriate measures to prevent syncope and to readily respond to the patient who feels faint:

- Make sure the patient is either seated or lying down at the time of vaccination.
- Observe patients for 15 minutes after they are vaccinated for signs and symptoms that precede syncope, such as weakness, dizziness, sweatiness and pallor.
- If patient is experiencing possible signs or symptoms of fainting, take the following steps to prevent syncope and injury from falling:
  - Have the patient sit or lie down immediately.
  - Have the patient lie flat or sit with head between knees for several minutes; loosen any tight clothing and maintain an open airway; apply cool, damp cloths to the patient's face and neck.
  - Observe the patient until symptoms completely resolve.

The Immunization Action Coalition has developed two educational pieces on the medical management of adverse reactions (including syncope) to vaccination:

- [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens](#)
- [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adult Patients](#)

## *Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)*

### **VFC Program Site Visits**

Routine site visits of VFC program providers are required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assure program requirements are being implemented properly. The visits are an educational opportunity for providers enrolled in the VFC program to discuss program requirements and improve immunization practices.

Site visits are commonly organized into two components, VFC compliance and immunization assessment. The visits are conducted by Immunization program field staff and focus on the entire immunization process.

A questionnaire completed during the visit provides guidance on compliance with the VFC requirements and helps Immunization program staff review VFC policies with clinic providers and staff. Some of the compliance items

covered during the site visit include: correct vaccine storage and handling practices, appropriate management of vaccine inventory, and proper screening for VFC eligibility. If non-compliant practices are encountered during the visit, Immunization program field staff will provide education, tools or technical assistance needed to correct the situation.

The assessment portion of the site visit is used to identify immunization coverage levels of patients. The assessment allows Immunization program staff to discuss strengths and opportunities to improve clinic immunization practices.

Immunization program field staff are available to serve as an immunization resource at the clinic visit and beyond.

## **Pentacel/Daptacel Shortage Guidance**

Availability of Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel and Daptacel vaccines remains reduced and is anticipated to continue throughout the summer of 2012. Production of single antigen and other combination vaccines are currently sufficient to address Pentacel supply gaps.

VFC providers should continue to place vaccine orders consistent with their established economic order quantity (EOQ). When placing vaccine orders for Pentacel, please reduce your order by at least 50 percent (to accommodate the reduced allocation quantity from CDC) and consider alternatives to Pentacel. Vaccine orders for Pentacel may be reduced to allow all providers to receive a portion of the program's vaccine allocation. As necessary, the VFC program will contact providers regarding vaccine orders to discuss the availability of Pentacel and use of single antigen vaccines. The Immunization program appreciates your understanding and assistance with this matter.

See sample schedules using single component and combination vaccines on the [VFC website](#).

If you have questions regarding vaccine orders contact the VFC program at 1-800-831-6293 ext. 5.

## ***Vaccine Storage and Handling***

### **New CDC Resource on Proper Vaccine Storage and Handling**

A video providing guidance for proper storage and handling of vaccines from the 2012 Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases course series is now available on the CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling [website](#) and at the following link:

**[Vaccine Storage and Handling Video](#)**

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**Save the Date!**  
**2012 Vaccine University**

**Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health Immunization Program**

A complete Vaccine University training brochure will soon be available with dates, locations, and details to register. When available, the brochure will be sent to the Immunization and VFC distribution list serve as well as posted to the Immunization [website](#). Training topics will include:

- Vaccine 101
- Vaccines for Children Program Updates
- Storage and Handling
- School and Child Care Vaccination Requirements

**Week of Oct 22-26**

October 23 – Creston – Greater Regional Medical Center  
October 25 – Sioux City – St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center  
October 26 – Mason City – Mercy Medical Center

**Week of Oct 29-Nov 2**

October 30 – Decorah – Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital  
November 2 – Marengo – Marengo Memorial Hospital

**Week of Nov 5-9**

November 5 – Ottumwa – Ottumwa Regional Health Center  
November 8 – Spencer – Spencer Hospital  
November 9 – Council Bluffs – Alegent Health Mercy Hospital

**Week of Nov 12-16**

November 14 – Des Moines – Iowa Methodist Medical Center  
November 16 – Dubuque – Mercy Medical Center

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***IRIS Update***

IRIS implementation of the web-based application was launched on Monday, June 4, 2012. The new IRIS application is available at <https://iris.iowa.gov>. A case-sensitive, three-part login is required and consists of an [organization code](#), username, and password. Existing IRIS users, organizations, patient records, and immunizations were migrated into the new version of IRIS. The table below shows the number of Iowa’s immunization registry data migrated to the new application.

Patients	2,495,305
Immunizations	22,383,737
Provider Organizations	1,730
Users	13,453

The [IRIS website](#) contains many updates and resources about the transition and how to use the new application. IRIS training videos are available within the application. To receive IRIS updates directly, send a blank e-mail to: [join-IRISUSERS@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-IRISUSERS@lists.ia.gov). For any IRIS questions, call the IRIS Help Desk at 800-374-3958.

## Question Corner

**Q: With the updated Certificate of Immunization now available from the Iowa Department of Public Health, do elementary and secondary student immunization records need to be transferred to the new certificate?**

**A:** No. Existing certificates remain valid and do not need to be transferred to the new certificates. The previous edition of the certificates may be used until stock is depleted. Copies of the new certificates are available on the Immunization program web page at

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Laws> and at the following links:

- [Certificate of Immunization](#)
- [Certificate of Immunization Exemption](#)
- [Provisional Certificate of Immunization](#)

Certificates may be ordered from the Health Protection Clearinghouse by calling 1-888-398-9696 or order from the Immunization program [web page](#).

**Q: Should a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) report be filled out if a patient faints after getting a vaccination, even if no injury or complication resulted?**

**A:** Yes. VAERS looks for trends, so such information is helpful. To find out more about VAERS and the types of events you should report to the system, visit [vaers.hhs.gov/index](http://vaers.hhs.gov/index).

**Q: Would you please review the new recommendations for the use of Tdap in people 65 years and older?**

**A:** At its February 2012 meeting, ACIP voted to recommend Tdap for adults age 65 years and older. CDC posted the provisional recommendations on its website on March 21, 2012 at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/Tdap-feb2012.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/Tdap-feb2012.pdf).

Two Tdap vaccines are currently licensed in the United States, Boostrix (GSK), approved for use in people age 10 years and older, and Adacel (sanofi pasteur) approved for use in people age 11 through 64 years.

The provisional recommendations state the following:

- Give a single dose of Tdap to previously unvaccinated adults age 19 years and older.
- Give the Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the person last received a tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.
- Give the Tdap dose to adults for whom it is recommended if no record of previous administration exists.


Do not miss an opportunity to give Tdap to people age 65 years and older. Administer the vaccine you have available—either Boostrix or Adacel. When feasible, give Boostrix to adults age 65 and older. However, either vaccine product provides protection and is considered valid for use in people in this age group.

# *Immunization Resources*

## **New Resources from the Vaccines for Preteens and Teens Campaign**

In the new 30-second Spanish language television PSA, a busy Hispanic mother receives a call from her doctor reminding her to get her adolescent son and daughter caught up on their shots. Please visit the [Preteen and Teen Campaign web page](#) to view this PSA and the accompanying English PSA.

New [plain-language fact sheets](#) provide detailed information about each of the routinely recommended adolescent vaccines, including Tdap, meningococcal, the HPV, and the seasonal influenza. There is also a new fact sheet summarizing all of the vaccine recommendations for adolescents. Spanish versions will be coming soon, so please check back with the website.

Health care providers will find this new [fact sheet](#)  [PDF-375 KB, 4 pages] full of useful information about adolescent vaccine recommendations, side effects, and contraindications. It also includes tips for ensuring that their adolescent patients are fully vaccinated. CDC has also created a new [reminder/recall e-card](#) that providers can send to parents of adolescents.

An updated [matte article](#) explains the latest HPV vaccine recommendations for girls and boys. It is approximately 450 words, and can be placed directly into your newsletters or posted on your website.

## **CDC PSAs and Posters Available to Promote Childhood Immunization Year Round**

New CDC materials are available to help promote infant immunization in your communities. These pieces are designed for use throughout the year, even after National Infant Immunization Week. The new materials are available in English and Spanish and include:

- Radio and television public service announcements (PSAs): <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/web-tools.html?tab=2#TabbedPanels1>
- Print PSAs: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/media-tools.html#print-ads>
- Posters, available for order from the CDC warehouse: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncird.aspx>

## **When Health Care Professionals Talk, Parents Listen**

CDC has several up-to-date resources on the [Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents website](#). This suite of materials was created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and at the American Academy of Family Physicians. Health care professionals can use the materials to stay current on vaccine-related topics, educate their staff, and/or distribute to parents.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also offers a [Risk Communication Video Series](#) to help providers conduct the most effective conversations with parents about vaccines. In addition, AAP has [real-life stories](#) from families affected by vaccine-preventable diseases and a series of [short, FAQ videos](#) featuring pediatricians and other vaccine experts.