

MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE MARCH 2016



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

National Infant Immunization Week Is April 16—23



National Infant Immunization Week

IMMUNIZATION.
POWER TO PROTECT.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is celebrated annually to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but they also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Among children born during 1994-2013, vaccination will prevent an estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes.

Please join us in celebrating National Infant Immunization Week on April 16—23.

Need Help Planning for NIIW?

- **Build partnerships in your community**
(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/planning.html#build>)
- **2016 NIIW Planning Kick Off Webinar**
(<http://www.vicnetwork.org/category/events/partner-events/archived-events/archived-webinars/>)
- **How to evaluate your activities**
(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/planning.html#evaluate>)

Promotional Materials

Born with Protection Against Whooping Cough Campaign

(<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html>)

NIIW print logos in English and Spanish

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/print-materials.html#logos>)

English and Spanish language print ads

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/media-tools.html#print-ads>)

NIIW key messages

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/media-tools.html#key-messages>)

Broadcast quality video and radio PSAs

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/promotional/web-ctools/audio-video.html>)

Sample NIIW tweets and Facebook posts

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/promotional/web-ctools/social-media.html>)

Sample drop-in articles

(<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/media-tools.html#dropin-articles>)



Screening for Vaccines For Children (VFC) Eligibility

Providers who administer state supplied vaccine are required to screen every patient receiving vaccination for VFC eligibility.

Children through age 18 who meet at least one of the following criteria are considered **VFC eligible** if they:

- **Are enrolled in Medicaid**
- **Do not have health insurance**
- **Are an American Indian or Alaska Native**
- **Are underinsured (have health insurance that does not pay for vaccinations)**

Children who are privately insured **MUST** be recorded as **not VFC eligible**. These children do not qualify for vaccines purchased with VFC funds; however, they do qualify for vaccines purchased with other funds and **can receive vaccine** supplied by the Maine Immunization Program.

You will be required to demonstrate how your practice screens for VFC eligibility if you have a VFC compliance visit.

Hepatitis B schedule when using Pediarix

We have received many phone calls recently from providers who have patients with invalid doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

Most often a child's record will look similar to this:

DOB – 08/05/2013

#1 08/05/2013

#2 10/09/2013

#3 01/06/2014 INVALID

#4 02/17/2014 INVALID

Why would #3 and #4 be INVALID doses?

The minimum interval rules (about the third dose being administered after 24 weeks of age) and the spacing between the second and third dose being eight weeks, were developed when there was no birth dose recommendation or Pediarix. The spacing rule was kept for providers prospectively planning doses. In the event that four doses have been given, a series can be considered valid if there is:

- Four weeks between the first and second dose.
- 16 weeks between the first and fourth dose, and if the fourth dose was given after 24 weeks of age.

This will count as a complete series and a fifth dose does not need to be given.

The AFIX Corner

(Assessment Feedback Incentive and Exchange)

"Strong scientific evidence exists that assessment and feedback of vaccination coverage information to providers are effective in improving vaccination coverage." Briss, Peter A., et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2000; 18 (1S)

Please feel free to contact our program to learn more about the AFIX process. If you do not have an AFIX visit scheduled yet, please call and we'll be happy to schedule one for you.

If you have any questions,
please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775
www.ImmunizeME.org

