

MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE MAY 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

Meet Maine's Childhood Immunization Champion Award Winner

Jeri Greenwell has been named the 2016 US CDC Childhood Immunization Champion in Maine. Greenwell's unwavering dedication to educating families and improving childhood immunization policies made her Maine's choice. Greenwell has been actively involved in educating nurses, parents and others about the importance of immunization. She has advocated for improved immunization practices at local and state levels and stresses how immunization protects children from deadly diseases through her personal story.



Jeri Greenwell

In April of 2003 Jeri's son, Jerry, awoke one morning with flu-like symptoms. By the evening, he was admitted to the hospital in critical condition, receiving around-the-clock care for meningococcal meningitis. Despite aggressive antibiotic treatment and the love and support from the family at his bedside, Jerry died three days later. Jeri and her family suffered a tremendous loss that changed their lives forever. Their anger and grief quickly turned to disbelief and an overwhelming sense of guilt when they were told that Jerry's death could have been prevented had they only known that this disease was preventable with a vaccine. Only those who have experienced the devastating consequences of this, and other life threatening diseases, can truly comprehend the impact it can have on a parent. For Jeri and her family, the importance of immunization will forever be utmost in their minds. Jeri has turned her grief into action and advocacy.

Each year during National Infant Immunization Week, US CDC and the CDC Foundation honor health professionals and community leaders from around the country with this award. Acknowledging the outstanding efforts of individuals who strive to ensure that children in their communities are fully

immunized against 14 preventable diseases before age two.

"Ensuring that every child is vaccinated on schedule is critical to protecting our children, schools, and communities from outbreaks of serious diseases," said Dr. Amanda Cohn, a pediatrician at CDC and the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. "We could not achieve our goal of protecting children without those committed individuals who promote immunizations at the state and local levels."

CDC Childhood Immunization Champions were selected from a pool of health professionals, coalition members, community advocates and other immunization leaders. State Immunization Programs coordinated the nomination process and submitted nominees to CDC.

One winner was selected in each of the participating states and the District of Columbia.

Read Jeri and her family's story at Vax Maine Kids: <http://www.vaxmainekids.org/a-maine-family-s-story-the-nightmare-of-meningitis/>

New Immunization Website for Parents

During National Infant Immunization Week (April 16-23, 2016), US CDC launched a redesigned vaccine website for parents.

The site offers a variety of resources for parents seeking to learn more about childhood immunization



and the diseases that can be prevented with vaccines.

Parents can learn about vaccines needed for their child's age; how to make vaccine visits less stressful; immunization records and requirements; and the 16 diseases that vaccines prevent in children and teenagers.

They can also download [easy-to-read immunization schedules](#) in both English and Spanish, use an interactive immunization scheduler, and view CDC educational resources. The new website also contains specialized immunization related to adoption, travel, and pregnancy.

For more information, please visit:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/

2016 Regional Trainings

The Maine Immunization Program currently has dates and locations planned for this year's Annual Regional Trainings.

June 9 – Hampton Inn in Presque Isle

June 23 – MaineHealth in Portland

June 29 – Kaplan University in Augusta

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Training will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

The Bangor training will be held the last week of September. Details will be announced closer to the training.

Please email Celeste.Poulin@maine.gov to sign up.

Ask the Experts

Q: Do we need to wait for the vaccine to reach room temperature before we administer it to a patient?

A: There is no recommendation to wait until a vaccine reaches room temperature before administration. The vaccine should be administered as soon as it is prepared.

Q: A child in our practice received her first dose of varicella vaccine when she was 12 months old and her second dose when she was 14 months old, rather than at age 4–6 years. Is the second dose valid or does it need to be repeated?

A: The recommended minimum interval between two doses of varicella vaccine for children 12 months through 12 years of age is 12 weeks. However, the second dose of varicella vaccine does not need to be repeated if it was separated from the first dose by at least 28 days, which is the "minimum interval." For more information, access CDC's table: "Recommended and Minimum Ages and Intervals Between Doses of Routinely Recommended Vaccines".
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf>

Q: Can I give a tuberculin skin test (TST) on the same day as a dose of MMR vaccine?

A: A TST can be applied before or on the same day that MMR vaccine is given. However, if MMR vaccine is given on the previous day or earlier, the TST should be delayed for at least 28 days. Live measles vaccine given prior to the application of a TST can reduce the reactivity of the skin test because of mild suppression of the immune system.

Q: Does varicella affect tuberculosis skin test (TST) readings in the same way that MMR does?

There is currently no information on the effect of varicella vaccine on reactivity to a tuberculin skin test (TST). Until information is available, it is prudent to apply the same rules to varicella vaccine as are applied to MMR: a TST (i.e., PPD) may be applied before (preferably) or simultaneously with varicella vaccine. If vaccine has been given, delay the TST for at least 4 weeks.

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

