

## Vaccine Advisory Committee Logistics

Reminder: VAC meetings in 2018 will be held in a different location. This information will be added to our webpages but until then, please note that 2018 meetings will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel, Rainier Room located at 18220 International Blvd, Sea Tac, Washington 98188. A shuttle to and from SeaTac is available.

### 2018 Meeting Dates:

- January 18, 2018
- April 19, 2018
- July 19, 2018
- October 18, 2018

## Policy and Legislative Update

### 2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 legislative session began last Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a short session; 60 days and is scheduled to end on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Since this is an election year, we anticipate that this session will end on time. Some of the main priorities this session include capital budget and education funding. The Office of Immunization and Child Profile doesn't have any proposed legislation this session but we're closely monitoring daily bill introductions for any immunization related bills that may be introduced by others this session.

### Immunization Bills of Interest:

There were three bills introduced in the House by [Representative Shea \(4<sup>th</sup> District\)](#) on Wednesday, January 17, 2018:

- [HB2840](#) *Vaccines containing mercury and aluminum*– removes mercury-limiting language and states that any mercury containing vaccine/product may not be purchased, distributed, or administered to anyone in Washington. Also includes new language that no vaccine can exceed certain limits of aluminum.
- [HB2841](#) *Vaccine risk communication* – requires the department to adopt a disclaimer form to inform patients about the potential to get sick even if vaccinated, that vaccination is not guaranteed protection, and to let the patient know about vaccine effectiveness and duration of protection. Health care providers must provide the disclaimer prior to administration. Failure to do so amounts to “unprofessional conduct.”
- [HB2842](#) *Notifying parents about immunization exemptions* – All schools and child cares must notify parents upon enrollment and before vaccines are administered on school/child care grounds that they can exempt their child from immunizations.

## Immunization Criteria Review

The State Board of Health (Board) and the Department of Health (DOH) convened technical advisory group (TAG) on July 11, 2017 to review the nine criteria used to determine which antigens children in Washington must be immunized against for school and child care entry. The final TAG recommended changes to the criteria, along with a summary of public comments, were presented at the Board meeting held last Wednesday, November 8, 2017. For clarification, the immunization criteria document is not a rule, piece of legislation, or other policy. The criteria are used to help guide the internal administrative process that the Board uses to determine if it will open the rule to consider adding or removing an antigen that children must be protected against for child care or school entry.

Great News! The Board approved the recommendations that came out of the July TAG meeting and some of the changes that were proposed through the public comment process after the TAG. The Board received 25 comments from seven individuals and one organization following the TAG meeting in July. The final document will be shared with all interested parties and posted to the Board's website.

The approved changes included:

- Adding language that indicates immunization requirements are justifiable when without them “the state’s obligation to protect the public’s health and safety would be compromised.”
- Adding language that indicates “adding or removing antigens from the rule are based on the best scientific evidence available at the time with an understanding that the science will continue to evolve.”
- Clarification and standardization of the process for applying the criteria to indicate that
  - Board Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the TAG uses the framework and criteria.
  - TAG members will only vote on if the antigen should be added (or removed) from the rule and provide comments to the Board to justify their vote.
- Adding language around vaccine effectiveness criterion that Washington specific data should be sought and reviewed when possible.
- Adding language to the explanation section around vaccine effectiveness to consult with an economist (as resources allow).
- Modifying the language around the cost effectiveness criterion so that it addresses cost-effectiveness for that specific vaccine rather than comparing its cost-effectiveness to other vaccines included in the WAC.
- Adding language to the criterion related to transmission to create an emphasis on (but not limiting to) diseases transmitted in a school or child care setting or activity, specifying that “activity” refers to school or child care extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, field trips, sports events, or other activities held on or off campus.
- Adding language that, at the Board sponsor’s discretion, community members with diverse perspectives on immunizations can be included in the TAG.
- Removing language that two public commenters felt was offensive and minimized public concern about vaccine safety, such as the use of the terms “myths and misinformation.”
- Specifying that the TAG can also use “other reliable sources” as it evaluates vaccine safety (other than the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and the Vaccine Safety Datalink project).

## **Certificate of Exemption Review**

The department is currently gathering feedback on the revised school and child care Certificate of Exemption (COE) form. It was last reviewed in 2015 in an effort to add clarity to the form in order to avoid mistaken authorization of medical exemptions. The draft COEs were sent out to VAC members for review and input via the listserv. The final day for feedback was January 17<sup>th</sup>. OICP staff will incorporate the feedback and share the final form with it is completed We would like to finalize the COE soon in time for 2018 kindergarten registration.

## **Clinical and Quality Assurance**

### **New Article in Pediatrics: Exemptions from Mandatory Immunization after Legally Mandated Parental Counseling**

In 2011, our state implemented a bill requiring counseling and a signed form from a licensed health care provider to get an exemption from school and child care immunization requirements. This research article uses Washington's school data to show that our change in our requirements for claiming exemptions did show a decrease in not only overall school exemptions but also lowered clustering of exemptions thus decreasing the risks for kindergarten students. [Link to Pediatrics article.](#)

### **Vaccine Supply and Distribution**

#### **Thermometer Requirements for 2018**

As of the beginning of 2018, **ALL** providers enrolled in the Childhood Vaccine Program must use a digital data logger with continuous monitoring and recording capabilities or a temperature monitoring system. Allowed thermometers must have a probe in solution and a valid certificate of calibration. Providers that do not have appropriate thermometers have been contacted and ordering permissions have been suspended until their thermometers are found to be in compliance.

#### **Immunizations at the Seattle-King County Free Health Clinic**

October 26-29 was the fourth annual [Seattle-King County Clinic](#), which provides free healthcare services to vulnerable populations in the region. This marks the third year Office of Immunization and Child Profile (OICP) staff attended to capture immunization records. OICP staff recorded 1,443 immunizations for 812 patients. There were four different vaccines offered this year: Flu, Tdap, MMR, and the Hep A-B combo vaccine. Along with recording immunizations, OICP staff also screened patients' immunization records to avoid any unnecessary vaccinations. Over 4,300 people were served at the event and the amount of direct service care received totaled over \$3.7 million dollars.

## **Health Promotion and Communication**

### **1918 Pandemic Flu Commemoration Activities**

The CDC is putting together a webpage with resources for partners to use to commemorate the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. It is planned to be available later this month for agencies and partners to plan coordinated activities. DOH plans to participate and will be included in next flu season's activities as well.

This resource website will contain communications tools, master key points, and infographics. They'll also be producing a digital timeline that can be linked to.

The main communication objectives they identified as reasons to commemorate the pandemic are:

- Underscore the continued threat of flu
- Highlight public health achievements
- Identify pandemic flu preparedness gaps
- Continue to promote flu vaccination

A specific email address was created to provide input and feedback, and partners are encouraged to share planned activities to CDC at [1918flu@cdc.gov](mailto:1918flu@cdc.gov).

### **Flu Provider/Patient Resources**

DOH has new and updated resources available to assist with flu vaccination efforts for the 2017-18 season, including a new flowchart/discussion guide to assist providers who face vaccine-hesitant parents. Public and provider educational tools and publications are readily available through DOH's Health Education and Resource Exchange ([H.E.R.E.](#)) Website and can be searched by subject, audience, language, publication number and title. Notable inclusions for flu vaccine promotion efforts include:

- [Flu Vaccine Hesitancy: Providers Lead the Discussion](#) (Flowchart/Discussion Guide)
- [Knock Out Flu at Work - Promoting Flu Vaccination in the Workplace](#) (Toolkit)
- Knock Out Flu With One Shot - 11x17 poster ([English poster](#)) ([Spanish poster](#))
- Knock Out Flu With One Shot - 2018 Calendar ([English language](#)) ([Spanish language](#))
- Protect You Family From the Flu ([English brochure](#)) ([Spanish brochure](#))
- [Flu: Information for Parents and Caregivers of Children with Special Health Care Needs](#) (Flyer)
- Pregnant This Flu Season? - 11x17 poster ([English poster](#)) ([Spanish poster](#))

Please contact [barry.iverson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:barry.iverson@doh.wa.gov) if you need any assistance locating additional resources.

**The 2018 Immunize WA Provider Recognition Program is underway!**



The Health Plan Partnership is sponsoring the 2018 Immunize WA Provider Recognition Program. Clinics are encouraged to nominate themselves for recognition between now and February 17th.

All nominees who have achieved immunization rates of 70% or higher qualify for an award. Your clinic will be awarded in April during National Infant Immunization Week in recognition of your commitment to ensuring patients are up-to-date on their immunizations!

**To submit a nomination, clinics will need to:**

- Run an IIS Coverage Rate Report for their child and/or adolescent patients, directions can be found [here](#).
- [Complete the 2018 online nomination form](#)

Click [HERE for a list of 2017 Immunize WA Awardees](#). Were YOU on that list?

This Partnership developed the Immunize WA initiative with three goals in mind:

1. Provide consistent messages to clinics on how to improve their immunization practices and why it's important to achieve high immunization coverage rates.
2. Establish a program to recognize clinics for achieving immunization rates of 70% or higher.
  - o Gold Level: 80% or higher
  - o Silver Level: 70-79%
  - o Bronze Level: 70 or higher adolescent series for 1:1:1 (*one dose of Tdap, meningococcal, HPV*)
3. Enhance data sharing between health plans and the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS).

Help spread the word about the recognition program and encourage clinics to submit nominations before the **February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline**.

For more information on this program, our partners, and other tools to improve immunization rates, visit our website at: [www.doh.wa.gov/ImmunizeWA](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ImmunizeWA) or send your question to our email at [immunizewa@doh.wa.gov](mailto:immunizewa@doh.wa.gov).

## Immunization Awards

The Immunization Action Coalition of Washington (IACW) and Washington State Department of Health need your help to find our Washington immunization heroes! **Three awards are now open for nomination:**

- **IACW Advocate Award:** An individual, active in the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington, who has given tremendous amounts of time and been successful in enhancing statewide immunization efforts. *Use the Nomination Form on pages 2-3 of [this application](#).*
- **IACW Collaborator Award:** An organization, active in the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington, who has impacted their community through collaboration to help promote, educate, and increase immunization levels. *Use the Nomination Form on pages 2-3 of [this application](#).*
- **CDC Childhood Immunization Champion:** An individual who goes above and beyond or does an exemplary job to promote or foster immunizations for 0-2 year olds in their community. *Use the Nomination Form on pages 4-9 of [this application](#).* Each year, the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* honors up to one person from each of the 50 U.S. states, 8 U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia.

We would appreciate your help in promoting this award to your constituents or members. Award winners can come from a variety of settings. Please ask your constituents to consider all kinds of nominees, including parent advocates, community members, and health care professionals who go above and beyond their expected responsibilities to ensure that children in their communities get their vaccines on time.

The attached nomination packet (also found [here](#)) provides details about all aspects of the nomination process. Nominations should be submitted to [IC@withinreachwa.org](mailto:IC@withinreachwa.org) by **February 2, 2018**. Either you or your constituents may submit nominations. Self-nominations are welcome. WithinReach and the DOH will announce the IACW winners and CDC will announce Champion awardees during National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 21-28, 2018.

A full suite of materials for your use in promoting the Champion award is available at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions). For more information about the two IACW awards, visit WithinReach at <https://immunitycommunitywa.org/nominate-your-immunization-heroes-today/>.

Thank you helping us to honor the great immunization work being done at the state and local levels. If you have any questions please email me or [IC@withinreachwa.org](mailto:IC@withinreachwa.org).