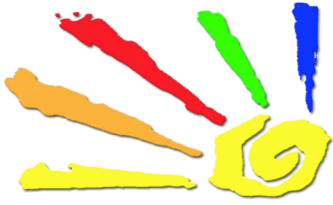


IMMUNIZE
OUR KIDS
VACUNEMOS
NUESTROS
NIÑOS



New Mexico
IMMUNIZATION
COALITION

NM Immunization Coalition *News*

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SKIIP flu clinics at schools statewide!

**By Maggie June, BA and
Debbie Muscarella, RN, BSN**

NMIC SKIIP coordinators

This fall marks the 5th year of SKIIP, The School Kids Influenza Immunization Project. Students statewide are able to receive their flu vaccine at school. This collaborative of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition, school nurses, New Mexico Department of Health, and health sciences students has grown in numbers each and every year. Everybody wins! Students benefit from the project with protection against the flu. The project is quite popular with students as about 90% can be protected with Flumist—a spray in the nose. Parents benefit from the convenience of immunizations right at school—no need to take time off to go to a doctor's appointment. Schools benefit with less illness and fewer absences due to influenza.

Over 420 schools statewide have held SKIIP clinics this season. Many schools hold two clinics each season. The first clinic is for all the students; the second clinic is scheduled at least 30 days later for children under the age of nine who need a second dose for full protection. Of course, the school nurse invites anyone who missed the first clinic to come for the second clinic day and catch up. School districts and individual schools are recruited through the NMIC. It is often through the persuasion by the school nurse that districts and education administrations agree to participate.

It takes a lot of paper to make this project happen. The Department of Health Immunization Program prints and distributes all of the forms statewide. Schools send a parent letter, consent form and VIS (vaccine information statement) home with each student. Parents then fill out the consent form, sign it, and return it to the school nurse.

Vaccine is ordered estimating that 30% of students in the school's population will participate. Some schools immunize as many as 50% of their students! The goal is to increase the percentage of participation every year. School Health Advocates (SHAs) and Public Health Nurses around the state work with school nurses on the details of their clinic: planning, scheduling the clinic, flow of the clinic and administering vaccine. Public Health offices receive the vaccine and maintain proper storage and handling throughout the season. The local public health staff has taken the task of providing much of the data entry into NMSIIS.

Many health science institutions partner with SKIIP to provide students as volunteers to help immunize at SKIIP clinics. This year's partners include: UNM College of Pharmacy, NMSU School of Nursing, ITT Nursing Program, CNM Nursing Program, Medical Reserve Corps and more. With the help of health sciences students, clinics run quickly and efficiently. SKIIP provides these students with an opportunity for a clinical experience in a Public Health setting.

We look forward to continuing this project next year and for many years as the benefit to the students, parents and entire community make this a very worthwhile endeavor.

NMIC members

Co-Chairs:

Norman White, MD
Jane Cotner, MS, MPH

Executive Director:

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA

Participating Organizations:

AARP
Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Albuquerque Public Schools
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico
Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines
Greater Albuquerque Immunization Network (GAIN)
Indian Health Service
La Clinica de Familia Medical Center
Lovelace
Merck Vaccine Division
Molina Healthcare, Inc.
NM Academy of Family Physicians
NM CYFD
NM Department of Health
NM Immunization Advisory Group
NM Influenza Vaccine Consortium
NM Human Services Department
NM Hospital and Health Systems
NM Medical Review Association
NM Medical Society/CPI
NM Nurses Association
NM Pediatric Society
NM Pharmaceutical Association
NM Primary Care Association
NM Public Health Association
NM School Nurses Association
NM State Department of Education
NM State PTA
Passport Health NM
Pfizer Inc.
Presbyterian Health Services
Rotary Clubs of New Mexico
sanofi pasteur
Santa Fe Immunization Coalition
Sierra County Immunization Coalition
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center
Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
Voices for Children

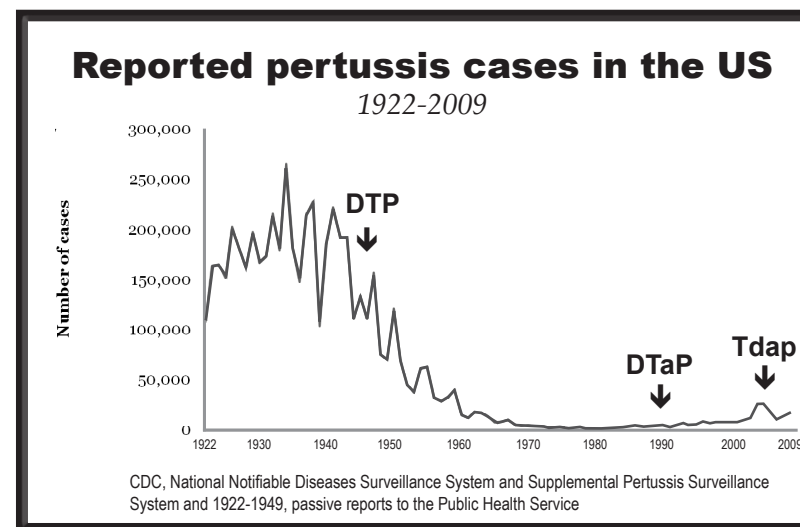
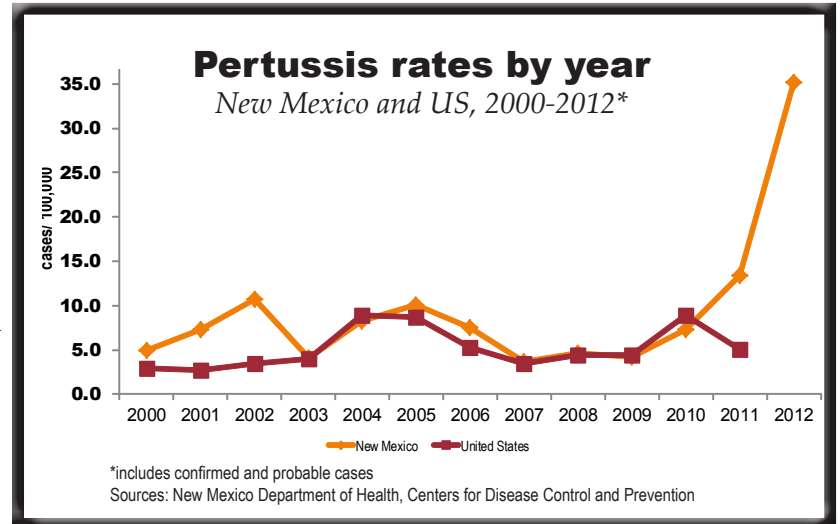
SHOT BRIEFS

New Mexico and many states across the US are experiencing the highest number of reported pertussis cases in 50 years. Over 700 cases have been reported in 2012 in New Mexico—over twice as many cases as were reported in 2011. This year the pertussis epidemic has included two infant deaths in New Mexico and nine infants deaths nationally. The teenage group has been hit especially hard, accounting for almost one third of all cases.

The CDC reports that unvaccinated children are at 8 times greater risk for getting pertussis compared with vaccinated

children. An estimated 84% of toddlers have received a complete pertussis series, and by school age that percent climbs to over 95%; in contrast, only 8% of adults have received a Tdap booster. Our best defense against pertussis is vaccination. We dramatically changed the landscape of pertussis in the second half of the 20th century through vaccination.

The reasons for the current pertussis epidemic are multi-faceted and still being studied. Some possible explanations include an increased awareness of pertussis and improved diagnostic techniques. Physicians are aware of the epidemic and may be more likely to test for pertussis than in past years. Waning immunity in older children and adults may be a result from using acellular DTaP for the infant series. The DTaP replaced DTP in 1996, and it is possible that the immunity from DTaP is not as long lived as from the DTP vaccine.



Education is needed to remind the public and providers that all adults who have not received Tdap are recommended to get a dose, especially pregnant women and those who will have contact with infants.

NMIC celebrates ten years!

On December 7 over 110 members of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition gathered at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque for our tenth anniversary meeting. Joining the celebration was NMIC’s former Honorary Chair, Barbara Richardson, former co-chair, Barak Wolff, and UNM-HSC Vice President Emeritus, Dr. Phil Eaton. These three leaders were instrumental in establishing the New Mexico Immunization Coalition ten years ago and it was especially meaningful to have them in attendance.

The meeting was very festive with a special display of photos from across the 10 years. Dr. Iyabode Beysolow from CDC’s National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases gave the keynote presentation, an update on pediatric and adult immunizations. David Selvage and Dr. Joan Baumbach from the Epidemiology and Response Division with the New Mexico Department of Health gave a presentation on the latest pertussis and influenza data for New Mexico. After a lovely lunch, Dr. Lance Chilton conducted a live interview of Drs. Fred and Diana Koster, a couple whose daughter was hospitalized with Hib meningitis over 30 years ago. Dr. Chilton is doing a series of interviews of people who have been impacted by vaccine-preventable diseases as a project to help us all remember the tremendous impact these

diseases had before vaccines were available. The Kosters shared their very personal and emotional story with the group. Happily their daughter recovered without sequelae, but the experience was terrifying and could have resulted in tragedy.

A synopsis was given of the work that the Coalition has done over the past ten years. Highlights included: 22 NMIC meetings; 10 years of coordinating “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” immunization campaign—more than 17,000 children received over 40,000 shots at these clinics; five years of coordinating SKIIP, the School Kids Influenza Immunization Project—with the current season reaching almost 45,000 kids in 420 schools across the state; over 100 projects received minigrants totaling over \$190,000; 30 Immunization Champions have been honored over the years; 25 newsletters published; and thousands of rubber duckies distributed!

The Coalition members engaged in a brainstorming/idea generating session for NMIC’s next ten years. There has been a lot of successful activity over the NMIC’s first ten years, and there is still much work to be done. Fortunately, the NMIC membership is dedicated and growing, so there is enthusiasm for moving forward.



Yabo Beysolow, CDC keynote speaker, Cheri Dotson, Laura Case, Jane Cotner



Drs. Randy Knott, Fred and Diana Koster, Lance Chilton



Barbara Richardson with NMIC members



Barak Wolff, Dr. Phil Eaton, Barbara Richardson



Michael Ruble, Erica Flores, Elisa Glaser and Amanda Hensley

2013 calendar of upcoming events

January

1/10 CPI Immunization Workgroup meeting, 2-4pm

1/17 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm

February

2/14 CPI Immunization Workgroup meeting, 2-4pm

March

3/14 CPI Immunization Workgroup meeting, 2-4pm

April

4/11 CPI Immunization Workgroup meeting, 2-4pm

4/18 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm

4/20-27 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

NMIC Provider Awards Dinner, date tbd

NM Immunization Coalition News

is published semi-annually. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at mjune@salud.unm.edu if you have an item to submit for the newsletter.



NMIC staff are vaccinated against influenza!



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