## NMDOH<u>News Brief</u> IMMUNIZATION

NM Department of Health Immunization Program

#### SW Region Update: Middle School Immunization Outreach

Veronica Matley, MSN RN RN Supervisor, SW Region, Las Cruces

Southwest Region Preventive Medicine Clinic (PMC) and Vaccines For Children (VFC) began conducting local middle school outreaches for Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) on March 3.



Riccardo Roadrunner

Las Cruces Public Health Nurses, NMSU Student Nurses, and LCPS Nurses participated in this event. We even had a special guest appearance by Ricardo the Roadrunner to cheer on the kids who received their scheduled immunizations! The immunizations include Tdap, Meningococcal, and HPV vaccines. The clinics ran through March 12.

#### Coronavirus (COVID-19) in New Mexico

Maggie June New Mexico Immunization Coalition

Wash your hands and clean your phones regularly

As the public health response continues to unfold about the Coronavirus situation, please remember to protect yourself by following the guidance in the side bar and refer to these

New Mexico resources for updated information:

NM Department of Health Coronavirus website: <u>cv.nmhealth.org</u>

NM Department of Health hotline: 855-600-3453

- 1. Wash your hands frequently
- 2. Practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet away from people
- 3. Practice social greetings by using elbow bumps, foot taps or bows instead of hand-shaking.
- 4. Wipe down surfaces that may be contaminated frequently.

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Riccardo the Roadrunner immunization mascot with shot clinic staff and school officials at Las Cruces Public Schools outreach

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#### Flu update: 2019-20 season

With all the focus on the novel Coronavirus, it's easy to forget that we are still in the midst of influenza season! And it

has been a very busy season. Almost all states in the US are still experiencing widespread influenza activity. We in NM are currently still well above baseline for Influenza-like-illness activity in all five NM public health regions.

This year, New Mexico experienced a much higher peak for ILI than the rest of the US (almost twice as high), and the peak was earlier than normal, occurring in late December/early

> Flu Update continued on page 3

#### Immunization Program



NMIC is working with the Immunization Program on an effort to utilize social media to educate New Mexicans about the importance of vaccinations. We've also created Coronavirus posts since it's relevant to NMDOH social media followers right now.

The images that are used in this series were created by Self Magazine in their effort to fill a gap by providing medically accurate, inclusive, quality images that can be used at no cost. As a health brand, Self Magazine published their latest project, Vaccines Save Lives, to provide creative imagery that shows just how necessary and important vaccines are. The photos were shot at a One Medical doctor's office in Brooklyn and feature actual physicians from the practice



administering the vaccines. We are delighted to be able to utilize these images on our social media effort. Read more about this project.

Be on the lookout for posts on the DOH twitter and

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OLDER...

facebook accounts. Here are a few of the posts that have been created so far.



Check with your doctor to make sure you are up-to-date on Flu and Pneumonia shots DEPARTMENT OF

HFAITH

... AND HELP **SENIORS STAY HEALTHY AND OUT OF THE** HOSPITAL

TRAVELING FOR SPRING BREAK?

> **¿PIENSA** VIAJAR EN SUS VACACIONES **DE PRIMAVERA?**

**OBTENGA** SU VACUNA CONTRA LA **GRIPE HOY!** 

#### **\_\_2**\_

#### **Annual Provider Awards** *Award winners recognized for their immunizing excellence*



Each year to celebrate National Infant Immunization Week, the New Mexico Immunization Coalition (NMIC) and the New Mexico Department of Health honor providers who

have excelled in vaccinating children around New Mexico. Award winning practices receive a signed certificate in appreciation of their exceptional work and dedication.

In addition NMIC will also accept nominations for the award category of Immunization Champion. This special recognition is selected based on an individual or organization that has gone above and beyond over the past year to improve immunization rates, practices, awareness, policy or education.

A call for nominations from NMIC will be sent out soon; plan to submit a nomination for the outstanding work on immunizations that your staff or organization is doing. For more information, contact Maggie June via email at <u>mjune@salud.unm.edu</u>

#### Flu update: 2019-20 season continued from page 2

January. The SE Region of New Mexico had the highest ILI activity in the state and the NW region had the lowest ILI activity.

The vast majority of influenza disease was caused by influenza B this season, which is different from the past few seasons where influenza A has been predominant.

For more influenza data, consult the weekly flu report from NMDOH, ERD, <u>https://nmhealth.org/</u> <u>about/erd/ideb/isp/</u>

### Spradic Summary of Activity: Week 10 Warch 1\* - 7\*, 2020 No Activity Spradic Bregional Widespread Widespread 0 Summary of Activity: Week 10 Warch 1\* - 7\*, 2020 Widespread 0 Summary of Activity: Week 10 Warch 1\* - 7\*, 2020 Widespread 0 Summary of Activity: Summary of Activity: Week 10 Warch 1\* - 7\*, 2020 Widespread 0 Summary of Activity is week 10 Junch 1

#### Gatekeeper Training update for 2020-21

Anna Pentler New Mexico Immunization Coaliton

Changes to the NM Childcare, pre-school and school entry

immunization requirements are now being incorporated into an update of the Gatekeeper Training for the 2020-2021 school year.

The online training will provide up to date guidance for screening schoolchildren's shot records to ensure that students are up to date on their vaccinations. A link to the new training will be available for everyone soon The training especially helps those who are responsible for checking children's vaccination records to ensure compliance with the current requirements.

# Contact

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