School Influenza Immunization Project 2010-11 (SIIP)

By Debbie Muscarella, RN, BSN
Immunization Consultant, New Mexico Department of Health

What started as a pilot project in the fall of 2008, the School Influenza Immunization Project (SIIP) has grown to include over 300 schools in fifty-nine cities throughout most of the counties in New Mexico.

I have had the opportunity to collaborate with many health care professionals on the SIIP project. Collectively we have delivered approximately 60,000 FluMist® doses to the children of New Mexico at school. SIIP has been possible with the cooperation of school nurses and school administrators throughout the state interested in participating in this project.

The SIIP project offers opportunities for UNM Health Sciences Center students to participate in mass clinics and gain experience with patient contact and vaccine administration. UNM students from many different disciplines (see listing on page 4) attended trainings in person and on-line to prepare them for volunteering at Albuquerque area school clinics. A new partnership was formed with Carrington College ASN Nursing Program to help round out the student volunteer pool. These partnerships have been priceless for the success of the project. Not only does SIIP provide valuable real-world public health experience, but also gives students a unique opportunity to work across disciplines.

This year SIIP provided only FluMist® vaccine at the schools. This was praised for simplifying the program but was also seen as a barrier to vaccinating all children against influenza since FluMist® cannot be given to children with certain high-risk conditions.

The Department of Health Immunization Program printed and mailed all of the paperwork needed for parental informed consents. This included the parent letter, Vaccine Information Statements, and permission paperwork in both English and Spanish. The collaboration of SIIP planners across the state made it possible to distribute the paperwork in a timely manner. The Vaccines for Children Program submitted orders in September and vaccine was delivered by early October to most of the sites. Many clinics were scheduled and held in October with follow up second dose clinics a
NMIC Eighth Anniversary and Celebration took place recently at the Albuquerque Hilton. Members enjoyed lunch and many talks on immunization issues—Keynote Speaker from the CDC, Donna Weaver, gave an HPV Vaccine Update; Dr. Joan Baumbach reported on Pertussis in New Mexico; Diane Jay of the Immunization Program discussed the Dept. of Health Cocooning Pilot Project; and the School Influenza Immunization Project team updated the group on this season’s efforts to vaccinate kids at schools around the state, story on front page.

Photos from top right, clockwise: Mary Ann Delgado, Brigette Stewart and Steve Albers; Bernadette Pacheco and Cheri Dotson; Cindy Romero and Lisa Bierig; Anna Pentler with Donna Weaver; Dennis Peña and Nick Costales; Cheri Dotson, Becky Trujillo, Francisco J. Ronquillo and Maggie June; Francisco J. Ronquillo; Cindy Lyell, Marianne Panzini-Rosenthal, Diane Jay; Cindy Greenberg and Debbie Muscarella.
SHOT BRIEFS

Here is a summary of some of the latest recommendations from the ACIP presented by Donna Weaver at our December meeting. Some have not yet been published in the MMWR, but should be coming out shortly. Some recommendations include off-label use.

Tdap  Persons aged 7-10 who are not fully immunized against pertussis (including those never vaccinated or with unknown pertussis vaccination status) should receive a single dose of Tdap. Adults 65 and older who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant <12 mos. and who have not previously received Tdap should receive a single dose. Adults 65 and older who are not in contact with an infant, and who have not previously received a dose of Tdap, may receive a single dose of Tdap in place of a dose of Td. Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus and diphtheria containing vaccine. There is no need to wait 2-5 years to administer Tdap following a dose of Td. There is no known problem with repeating a dose of Tdap if a patient is uncertain whether or not s/he received Tdap previously and records are not available. Thus, if uncertain, a patient should be given Tdap.

MCV4  Providers should administer initial doses of MCV4 to all adolescents age 11-12 with a booster dose at age 16. Current data now indicate that the protection provided by MCV4 wanes within 5 years following vaccination. For this reason, in October, ACIP voted to recommend an MCV4 vaccine booster dose to provide continuing protection during the peak years of vulnerability. Administer 1 dose at age 13-18 if not previously vaccinated. For persons vaccinated at age 13-15, administer a 1-time booster dose 5 years after the first dose.

PCV13  Children who have completed a series of PCV7 should receive 1 dose of PCV13. A single supplemental dose of PCV13 is recommended for children who have received a complete age-appropriate series of PCV7, healthy children 14-59 mos., children with an underlying medical condition 14-71 mos. (including those who have already received a dose of PPSV). A single dose of PCV13 may be administered to children age 6-18 who are at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease, functional or anatomic asplenia, including sickle cell disease, HIV infection and other immunocompromising conditions, cochlear implant, or CSF leak.

PPSV  Routine pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination is recommended for adults age 19-64 with asthma or who smoke cigarettes. Data are insufficient to recommend vaccination for persons <19 with asthma or who smoke.

School Influenza Immunization Project, continued from page 1

The project is not complete yet, but it will not be long before a total number of doses administered will be available through NMSIIS. Much of the data entry is already complete in NMSIIS with the support of several contract data entry folks and Department of Health oversight.

Time will tell how the 2011 flu season will unfold. We can be assured that many of New Mexico’s children are protected from the flu this season due to this outstanding public health effort. SIIP, together with the many health care professionals who interact with our children every day are working hard to make sure our children receive flu vaccine. It has been my pleasure to be associated with this remarkable project.

Welcome to new Immunization Program Manager, Jane Cotner

Jane Cotner returns to the Immunization Program with over 20 years experience in public health. Her background includes program implementation and evaluation, multi-agency collaboration toward common health goals, health behavior theory, and health communication. Previously she worked in the DOH Chronic Disease Bureau managing statewide prevention programs for arthritis, obesity and cancer prevention, served as Operations Manager of the Immunization Program, and most recently was manager of the Injury Prevention and Epidemiology Unit in the DOH Epidemiology and Response Division.

UNM SIIP Student Volunteers come from these programs

- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- Emergency Medical Services Academy
- Physician Assistant Program
- Masters in Public Health
- School of Medicine
- Undergraduate Programs

Other volunteers

Carrington College
Community members
### 2011 calendar of upcoming events

#### January
- 1/20  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00pm

#### March

#### April
- 4/21  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00pm
- 4/24-30  National Infant Immunization Week

---

**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.