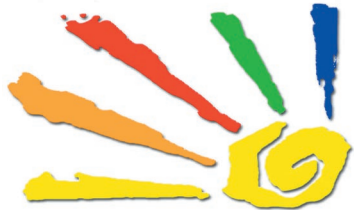


IMMUNIZE  
OUR KIDS  
VACUNEMOS  
NUESTROS  
NIÑOS



New Mexico  
IMMUNIZATION  
COALITION

# NM Immunization Coalition *News*

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## Tdap can help New Mexicans “Whip the Whoop”

**By Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA**

*Executive Director, NMIC*

The development of pertussis vaccine for children in the 1940's caused a dramatic drop in cases. In the past 25 years, however, the rates of pertussis have risen again. And again, the development of a new vaccine can step in to stop the spread.

In 2005, the US had approximately 25,600 reported cases of pertussis, or whooping cough, compared to 1,000 in 1980. The true number of cases is probably much higher. This increase is due in part to the success of eliminating childhood pertussis. Adolescents and adults who have been immunized are no longer getting “boosted” by exposure to pertussis in younger children. Both vaccine and disease-induced immunity wane after about 5-10 years, so a booster is needed to keep pertussis from infecting adolescents and adults.

diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccines formulated for adolescents and adults (Tdap). Adacel and Boostrix are now available for use. Tdap is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (Boostrix) and Sanofi Pasteur (Adacel). Both protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Boostrix is licensed for use in children and adolescents 10-18 years of age, and Adacel is licensed for adolescents and adults 11-64 years of age. Both are recommended as a one-time booster in place of Td.

To raise awareness about the rise in pertussis cases and its prevention through the use of Tdap, the New Mexico Immunization Coalition (NMIC), the New Mexico Department of Health and the Clinical Prevention Initiative (a collaboration of the NM Medical Society and the NM Department of Health) have launched a campaign called “Whip the Whoop.” The vision of the campaign is to protect our communities by curtailing the spread of pertussis through immunization.

The reasons to receive the immunization are clear. Pertussis is contagious from the start of symptoms to several weeks after coughing begins. Often symptoms are not recognized until a person has been coughing for several weeks. This is particularly a concern because parents who are unaware



In Summer 2005, the FDA approved two tetanus and

*Tdap helps Whip the Whoop, continued on page two*

## NMIC members

### Honorary Chair:

First Lady Barbara Richardson

### Co-Chairs:

Margy Wienbar

Norman White, MD

### Executive Director:

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA

### Participating Organizations:

AARP  
Aging and Long-Term Services Department  
Albuquerque Public Schools  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico  
Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU  
Centers for Disease Control  
Doña Ana 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  
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  
Wyeth Vaccines

## Photo gallery

*Photos from the NMIC's fourth anniversary celebration and annual meeting held on December 8 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North.*



### Tdap helps Whip the Whoop

*continued from page one*

that they have pertussis might expose infants too young to be vaccinated or other unprotected children.

Newborns usually do not have maternal antibodies against pertussis. Immunization with DTaP begins at 2 months, but babies are not fully protected for their first year, when they have received the full four doses of DTaP. This leaves very young infants vulnerable to infection. Unfortunately,

very young infants who contract pertussis often must be hospitalized and sometimes die (approximately 63% of infants < 6 months with pertussis require hospitalization, with a mean length of stay of 6 days<sup>1</sup>). Over 90% of pertussis deaths are in infants aged < 4 months of age. There are 20-30 infant deaths from pertussis each year in the US.<sup>2</sup>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has issued

**Tdap helps Whip the Whoop**  
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**Tdap helps Whip the Whoop***continued from page one*

recommendations for the use of Tdap:

- All 11- to 12-year-olds should get Tdap instead of Td (in New Mexico, this will be a required middle-school entry vaccination in fall '07);
- All 13- to 18-year-olds who have not received Td should receive Tdap instead;
- All 19- to 64-year-olds who have not received Td in 10 years should receive Tdap instead of Td;
- Persons needing wound prophylaxis in emergency rooms should receive Tdap instead of Td, unless they have already received Tdap or it has been <5 years since their last Td.

There are also some special recommendations for certain high priority groups:

- Anybody who will have close contact or care for an infant less than 12 months of age should

receive Tdap if it has been at least two years since their last Td (new parents, grandparents, child care providers, healthcare providers);

- Healthcare workers with patient contact should receive Tdap if it has been at least two years since their last Td;
- Women who are contemplating pregnancy should receive Tdap before pregnancy or as soon as possible postpartum, if it has been at least two years since their last Td;
- If there is higher risk of pertussis exposure, such as during an outbreak, Tdap can be administered if it has been at least two years since last Td.

Healthcare workers are critical to the Whip the Whoop campaign. Several ways that they can help prevent cases of pertussis include:

- Make sure that their clinics and pharmacies stock Tdap;
- Ask their patients about their last Td and offering Tdap if indicated;

- Make sure that everyone with close contact to infants receives Tdap if it has been at least two years since their last Td;
- Make sure all healthcare workers get immunized to protect themselves and their patients.

NMIC can provide you with "Whip the Whoop" presentations for your group, brochures and buttons and a technical fact sheet on Tdap for providers. For more information on Whip the Whoop, or to schedule a presentation, contact Anna Pentler, Executive Director of the NMIC, 505-272-3032 or [apentler@unm.edu](mailto:apentler@unm.edu).



(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> O'Brien, J. A. and Caro, J.J., "Hospitalization for pertussis: profiles and case costs by age," BMC Infect Dis 2005; 5: 57.

<sup>2</sup> CDC Pertussis Surveillance Report – 10/4/06

## SHOT BRIEFS

### Influenza

Flu season is officially underway in New Mexico. We have recently seen the first infant case of flu in Santa Fe. All states bordering New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma and Utah, have also reported cases of influenza.

The public is encouraged to get influenza vaccine throughout the season, and flu vaccine is still available. This year, New Mexico ordered 198,000 doses of vaccine, about 70,000 more than last year.

The New Mexico Department of Health recommends vaccination for the following groups:

- Persons at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease, including
  - ✦ children aged 6--59 months,
  - ✦ pregnant women,
  - ✦ persons aged ≥50 years,
  - ✦ persons of any age with certain chronic medical conditions; and
  - ✦ Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk,

including household contacts who have frequent contact with persons at high risk and who can transmit influenza to those persons at high risk and healthcare workers.

The Department of Health also makes the following recommendations to help minimize the spread of flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If possible, stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, preferably using a tissue, then dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your and your children's hands frequently, especially if sneezing and coughing and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice good health habits such as getting plenty of sleep, being physically active, eating nutritious food and drinking plenty of fluids.

For information about scheduled flu-shot clinics, consult the New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium's website, <http://www.nmmra.org/nmivc/cliniclist.php>



## Calendar of upcoming events

### January

- 1/12 NMIC Strategic Planning Meeting
- 1/25 *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* satellite broadcast/webcast series one of four, UNMHSC, 10am to 2pm

### February

- 2/1 *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* satellite broadcast/webcast series two of four, UNMHSC, 10am to 2pm
- 2/8 *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* satellite broadcast/webcast series three of four, UNMHSC, 10am to 2pm
- 2/15 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30
- 2/15 *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* satellite broadcast/webcast series last of four, UNMHSC, 10am to 2pm

### March

- 3/5-8 National Immunization Conference, Kansas City
- 3/15 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30



*Eileen Goode, New Mexico Primary Care Association, Anna Pentler, NMIC Executive Director and Kris Porcher, Lovelace, at the NMIC Fourth Anniversary Celebration.*

**NM Immunization Coalition News** is published quarterly. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at [mjune@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mjune@salud.unm.edu) if you have any questions or have an item to submit for the newsletter.



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