Raising the Rates

A Newsletter from the American College of Physicians and the New Jersey Immunization Network

Included in the April 2019 Issue

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How the battle against measles varies around the world

Conflict, inequality and skepticism limit global vaccine coverage

The World Health Organization’s goal was lofty but achievable: eliminate measles from five of the world’s six regions by 2020. But recent outbreaks — even in places where elimination had been achieved — are making that goal a distant dream. What Happened?
6,149 Chikungunya Virus Cases Reported in The Congo During 2019

CHIKV-VLP chikungunya virus vaccine candidate received FDA Fast Track designation

The World Health Organization (WHO) said a total of 6,149 suspected cases of the chikungunya virus have been reported in the Republic of Congo, from January 7 to April 14, 2019.

The WHO says ‘the scale of this chikungunya virus outbreak has likely been underestimated, given the limited detection capacity of the surveillance system in the Republic of the Congo. Read On.

Flu News in the USA Looks Positive
**CDC reports 111 pediatric deaths related to influenza viruses during the 2018-2019 season**

*The flu news this week has many positive attributes, but with one exception.*

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 2 additional influenza-associated pediatric deaths during the 2018-2019 influenza season, Week #20, ending May 18, 2019. And, one additional death that occurred during the previous season.

The CDC’s revised totals are 111 pediatric deaths during the current season, and 187 during the 2017-2018 season. Additional Information [HERE](#).

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**Maine bars residents from opting out of immunizations for religious or philosophical reasons**

*Maine has become the fourth state in the nation to prohibit people from opting out of immunization for religious or philosophical reasons.*

Governor Janet Mills (D) signed a bill into law on Friday removing all non-medical exemptions to vaccination from the books.
"As governor, it is my responsibility to protect the health and safety of all Maine people, and it has become clear that our current laws do not adequately protect against the risks posed to Mainers," Mills said in a statement shared with CNN. Full Story HERE.

Shingles Vaccine Sales Increased 61% But Shingrix Inventory Remains Limited

*GSK Shingrix vaccine is rated more effective than Zostavax*

Previously, Jack Bailey, President, US Pharmaceuticals, GSK, said in a press release, “By expanding the adjuvant system production capabilities in Hamilton, Montana, we will continue to deliver long-term and sustainable supply for key vaccines, including Shringix.” Read More HERE
APhA announces Immunization Champion Award winners

To celebrate the achievements of immunizing pharmacists, APhA’s Immunization Champion Awards recognize pharmacists, organizations, members of the pharmacy profession, and their allies, who have made extraordinary contributions to increase vaccination rates in their communities. The 2019 Immunization Champions, honored in March at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Seattle, have implemented immunization and patient care activities that resulted in increased vaccination rates and improvement of public health. Read on to learn more about the efforts and achievements of these distinguished individuals.

50 Anti-Vaccine Myths and Misinformation
Myths That Keep Parents From Vaccinating Their Kids

"I did my research," parents often say when they are ready to delay or skip vaccines.

Because the idea that vaccines are dangerous is easy to disprove, the anti-vaccine movement surrounds that idea with many myths and much misinformation to confuse parents who are trying to "do their research" on vaccines and how best to keep their children safe and healthy.

This guide to the 50 most common anti-vaccine myths and misinformation will help you understand that vaccines are safe, are necessary, and that getting your kids vaccinated and fully protected against each and every vaccine-preventable disease is the right decision to make. More HERE.

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It's Not Just Measles.
What You Should Know About Vaccines For Adults
We're used to kids needing lots of shots to ward off lots of illnesses, but what about adults? The CDC recommends that adults get multiple vaccines for conditions ranging from tetanus to influenza to cervical cancer. The shots can be a bit trickier to keep track of, as many adults go to the doctor less frequently than kids do, but those vaccinations are equally important for staying healthy.

The Adult Immunization Conference
November 13, 2019
The Conference Center at Mercer