



Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

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Keeping Current on Immunization Recommendations and Requirements

It is important to ensure that your patients are up-to-date with their immunizations in order to offer the best protection against vaccine preventable diseases. In the course of a year there can be changes in vaccine recommendations, releases of newly licensed vaccines and new immunization requirements for school entry. For example, there is a new requirement for the start of the 2016-17 school year that all Ohio students entering the 7th and 12th grade are to be vaccinated against meningococcal (serogroups A,C,W, and Y) disease. Having the most current vaccine information is essential so there are no missed opportunities to immunize a patient at any appointment.

Providing immunizations is a team effort. It is important that all staff be well informed and properly trained. There are several strategies that are recommended to help provider offices in obtaining recent vaccine news. One suggestion may be for the office to have an immunization champion. This could be the nurse manager or any clinical staff member that would be the “go-to” person for immunization information. Responsibilities would include checking for updates on vaccine recommendations, new immunization schedules, vaccine alerts, etc. This would be done on a regularly scheduled basis. Any new information can then be shared during staff meetings or by placing the updated materials in a common area for staff to read, initial, and date. It is recommended to appoint a back-up staff member to perform these duties in the event that the champion is unavailable. A good resource to use to obtain the most current information is the Immunization Action Coalition at <http://www.immunize.org>. On the site, you can sign up for the IAC Express to receive weekly e-mails with immunization news, access to their newsletter “*NeedleTips*” and much more.

In addition, the Immunization Action Program at Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County offers two continuing education programs, each worth one hour of continuing education credit for doctors, nurses and medical assistants. One is the MOBI (Maximizing Office Based Immunizations) which presents the most current recommendations and strategies for childhood immunizations. The second program is TIES (Teen Immunization Education Sessions) which focuses on adolescent immunizations. The programs and resources are free, flexible and can be presented at your office.

For more information on the MOBI, TIES or other programs that the IAP has to offer, Call: (937)224-8707 or (937)496-7698.