VFC NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health– Chicago VFC Program

8.29.2018

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), an annual observance sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) to highlight the importance of vaccines for people of all ages. Please join us in celebration of the last week of NIAM 2018 by raising awareness about the importance of adult vaccines.

In this feature....



NIAM Theme Week 4:



Adult Vaccine Coverage



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Together, We Can Do Better!



NIAM Celebration Guide: Adults

Adults: Vaccines are Not Just for Kids!



The need for vaccinations does not end in childhood. Vaccine status should be assessed for all patients, even healthy adults. Adult vaccines can prevent serious illness and hospitalization due to flu, whooping cough, pneumonia and shingles. Some vaccines, like Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines, can even prevent cancer. You can find the 2018 ACIP schedule for adults here.

Adult Vaccine Coverage Levels

Even though adult vaccines are recommended as part of a healthy lifestyle, adult vaccine coverage is very low. In Chicago, only 36.2% of adults 18 years or older were estimated to have received a flu vaccine during the 2016-2017 flu season. In the 2016 National Health Interview Survey, CDC found that only a small percentage of adults nationwide are getting the vaccines they need:

- Only about 44% of adults 19 years or older received a flu vaccine during the 2016-2017 flu season
- Only 27% of adults 19 years or older had received a Tdap vaccination in the last ten years
- Only 25% of adults 19 years or older had received 3 or more does of hepatitis B vaccination
- Only 33% of adults 60 years or older had received shingles (herpes zoster) vaccination
- Only 67% of adults 65 years or older had received pneumococcal vaccination

Together, We Can Do Better!

Health care professionals like you play a critical role in educating patients of all ages about the recommended vaccines. With flu season approaching, take this opportunity to commit to recommending the flu shot to all of your patients this year. To read more on the human and economic burden of adult vaccine-preventable diseases in Illinois, click <a href="https://example.com/here/new-mailto-recommended-patient-state-preventable-patient-state-pat



Protected **Together**



NIAM Celebration Guide: Adults

To raise awareness about the importance of adult vaccinations, implement the following simple and quick strategies in your practice today!

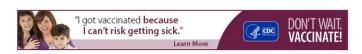
Educate patients- Many adult patients don't realize they are overdue for recommended vaccinations. Use these <u>CDC handouts</u> to educate patients about the importance of adult vaccination (<u>Spanish available</u>)





Share resources online- Add web buttons to your practice's website and social media pages that link to CDC <u>adult vaccination online resources</u>





Learn more strategies for improving adult immunization servicesReview CDC's <u>standards for adult immunization practice</u> to learn additional ways your practice can promote adult vaccination, such as implementing standing orders





For more ideas access the complete NIAM 2018 toolkit click here





And don't forget, share pictures from your practice to show us how you are celebrating NIAM! Please email stories and pictures to chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org