

Rhode Island Vaccine Advisory Committee, VAC
Friday, April 8, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Beth Lange MD, Chair; Richard Ohnmacht MD, Boris Skurkovich MD, Gail Skowron MD, Dinusha Dietrich MD, Erica Hardy MD, Jordan White MD, Gail Davis RN, Karen Mazzola, RN

Guests: Gail Whitfield, RN; Richard Aceto, GSK; Melissa Finlay, Pfizer; Seth Heawik, Sanofi Pasteur; Jim Palazzo, GSK; Leigh O'Mara, Sanofi Pasteur

RIDOH: Nicole Alexander-Scott MD, Tricia Washburn, Kathy Marceau, Sue Duggan-Ball

Opening:

Minutes from October 2, 2015 meeting not available today. Minutes will be sent along with today's minutes and will be reviewed at the next meeting. If there are any urgent edits, please send to Tricia.

RIDOH has arranged for parking lot access ID's to be processed for committee members. ID badge request forms for committee members not present at the meeting are available on line at <http://inside.health.ri.gov/onsite/> - see the right hand of the web page for the form. The information needed: Name, identify as "Consultant", work phone, cell phone, email, vehicle license #, state, year, make, model, color.

Please return the paperwork to Kathy Marceau at Kathy.Marceau@health.ri.gov.

Dr. Lange welcomed Erica Hardy, MD and Jordan White, MD to the committee.

RIDOH Influenza Updates:

Trish presented 3/20/16 Seasonal Influenza Campaign Reporting noting the rate of vaccinating is the same as of this date last year.

This week Rhode Island is at a regional status for influenza, therefore the masking requirement has been lifted. RIDOH message is to continue vaccinating. Fluzone High Dose influenza vaccine expires 5/5/16 and some Fluarix expires 5/31/16. All other injectable influenza vaccines expire 6/30/16.

Immunization quality improvement work involves effective messaging, ex: doing away with the term "pre-book", to make the process more clear and improving the flu ordering process for next season. The goal is to find a balance between getting providers the vaccine they need and vaccine accountability to minimize waste. Flumist will be available for adult ordering next season.

Dr. Dietrich relayed that some parents were unaware that children vaccinated at school clinics could get Flumist. The permission form clearly states that Flumist is available, however, the program will look at further opportunities to convey this message.

Dr. Skowron led a discussion on the efficacy level of Flumist for older adults according to published a study. The committee promotes the ACIP recommendation which states that Flumist is indicated for ages 2 through 49. Tricia will ask CDC if there is more information available.

Dr. Ohmacht inquired about the possibility of getting influenza vaccine in July/August to vaccinate those patients who visit the office during summer to avoid a missed opportunity. RIDOH does not have control over CDC's distribution process, which is typically anywhere from mid-August to late September. Timing is also impacted by the manufacturer's release of the product. Currently RIDOH waits for 50% of inventory to be available at CDC's distribution center to be able to equally distribute amounts statewide. A goal could be a survey to quantify this population by practice. If there is large demand RIDOH can look into alternative options.

Dr. Skowron is waiting for feedback on a concern she submitted to the RIDOH Pharmacy Board regarding pharmacists vaccinating HIV patients with Zostavax. Two of her patients were vaccinated in January without her permission. Dr. Alexander-Scott confirmed that the Board is investigating the case.

HPV Immunization Update:

Effective April 30, 2016 HPV4 will no longer be available to order. All orders will be filled with HPV 9. Refer to two handouts (attachments) on HPV data. The 2015-2016 school survey assessment data show that students entering 7th grade have a 74% coverage rate for at least one dose of HPV. The Medical exemption rate is 0% (N=21); RIDOH does not question those exemptions. The Religious exemption use rose from .7% in the previous year to 4%, and 22% of the population were missing vaccine and exemptions. Next year's survey will include data on eighth grade second dose activity. The second handout displays continuous coverage rate increases from 9/30/2014 through 1/31/2016.

It was noted that some school messaging on vaccination requirements includes "your package contains an exemption form for HPV which is still controversial, take this form to your provider..." Kathy Marceau will address this with the school departments to encourage supportive messaging for vaccination and does not encourage use of an exemption. A recommendation was made to share the healthcare provider messaging with SNT's, regarding the fact that a provider's strong recommendation has a positive impact on vaccination coverage rates. The project timeline for an HPV Reminder/Recall, grant supported, is June through October. Reminders will go to parents of children ages 10 years 11 months and 11 years 11 months that there are three adolescent vaccines given at the 11-12 year visit. Recall messaging will go to parents of children who are 13-17 who have not completed the series to encourage series completion.

All immunization related bills that were recently heard by the legislation have been held for further study.

Members asked if providers can get more information about all the myths and alleged HPV vaccine injured cases reported through the media so they can stay abreast of the news when talking with parents. Tricia identified Anne Devi Wold, MD, a physician consultant for the Immunization Program, who conducts enhanced AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, eXchange) visits for RIDOH with a specific focus on HPV disease and vaccination. She could pull together summaries of cases shared on internet/social media to better prepare providers to talk to parents. Dr. Alexander-Scott approved this idea.

Other useful HPV resources: *Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic* documentary narrated by Vanessa Williams and *Someone You Love: Lady Ganga* HPV documentary. You can watch it directly through the website on a personal computer at <http://www.hpvepidemic.com/>

Meningococcal B Implementation Update:

The Office of Immunization anticipates that MenB will be available to order in May. Once it is available for order, an advisory will be sent to providers and parents. The provider advisory was created with input from the committee and will be resent for review. A parent advisory was created as well and parents will be informed through school nurse outreach efforts.

The MenB vaccines are not interchangeable. RIDOH will supply Bexsero to all enrolled practices. Trumenba will be made available on a case-by-case basis for patients who started the series using this product.

Question was presented on whether RIDOH offers single dose Hib vaccine orders. Hib single doses are available upon request for patients following splenectomies.

Providers were asked about preferences for the next Provider Conference. Recommended that a save the date be sent at least three months in advance. Drs. Penny Dennehy, Paul Offit, and Gary Marshall were suggested speakers.

Next Meeting

The next Vaccine Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, November 4, 2016 at RIDOH from 7:30 – 8:30AM in the Director's Conference Room, Room 401.