Table of Contents:

1. Whooping Cough Update
2. Tdap Immunization Strategies for Adolescents
3. Vaccine Alert Updates
4. Zika Epidemic
5. CDC Releases 2016 Immunization Schedules
6. DHA-IHB Training Opportunities
7. Upcoming Conferences

The Monthly Immunization Updates contain a collection of articles taken from public sources to offer awareness of current immunization issues and the media coverage given to them. The articles do not represent Defense Health Agency opinions, views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the Department of Defense.

1. Whooping Cough Outbreak

(Scientific American) An outbreak of whooping cough, or pertussis, at a Florida preschool in which nearly all the students had been fully vaccinated against the disease, raises new concerns about the vaccine's effectiveness, a new report suggests. During a 5-month period between September 2013 and January 2014, 26 preschoolers, two staff members and 11 family members of the students or staff at the preschool came down with whooping cough, according to a report of the outbreak published in the Journal Emerging Infectious Diseases. Of the 33 children who had pertussis, 28 had received >3 pertussis vaccinations, and 23 had received >4 vaccinations. Vaccine effectiveness among children attending the preschool was estimated to be 45.0%. The classroom with the highest attack rate was one in which a teacher with pertussis who had not received a Tdap booster vaccination, worked throughout her illness.

2. New Research Suggests Alternate Tdap Immunization Strategies for Adolescents

(NH Voice) In a new study carried out to assess the efficacy of the current whooping cough when compared to its predecessor, researchers have come to know that the Tdap booster vaccine will not be much effective in teenagers. Research carried out by Kaiser Permanente’s Vaccine Study Center has
unveiled that the Tdap booster vaccine is moderately effective in protecting children against whooping cough within the first year of vaccination. After hiatus of four years, the efficacy of the vaccine reduces to less than 9% in teenagers. In the 1990s, the US changed the type of vaccine given to children from whole cell pertussis (DTwP) to acellular pertussis (DTaP). The vaccine was changed as the earlier one was having some side effects including high fever.

3. Vaccine Alert Updates:

ACAM2000 Vaccine Suspension:

On 3 Mar 16, USAMMA issued MMQC message 16-1132 directing all DoD locations to suspend all ACAM2000 vaccinations with vaccine Lot # V V 04-003-A. Vaccine should be segregated, marked "Do Not Use" and continue to be refrigerated. The suspension is a result of Sanofi Pasteur receiving complaints from three civilian sites regarding unusual appearance and particulate matter in vials of ACAM2000, reconstituted with diluent for ACAM2000. Sanofi Pasteur has an active investigation into these incidents and at conclusion of the investigation Sanofi will advise further action. There is no risk to the Service member who received this lot of vaccine and individuals should not be revaccinated.


On 4 Mar 16, MMQC message 16-1133 was issued outlining the new stock of vaccine available for smallpox vaccinations. The CDC has released lot # V V 03-019-C for immediate distribution. Any locations needing replacement of vaccine will need to place a new order to receive the new lots of vaccine.


Yellow Fever Vaccine:

11 Mar 16, YF Vaccine Data Call MMQC Message 16-1156. Sanofi Pasteur has a limited supply of Yellow Fever Vaccine (YF-VAX) vaccine. A complete inventory of YF-VAX within the Military Healthcare System is necessary to develop the ordering guidance. Further ordering guidance will follow the week of 14 Mar.

All MTFs and immunization activities will inventory both the single-dose presentation of YF-VAX (NDC 49281-915-01) and the five-dose presentation of YF-VAX (NDC 49281-915-05) and MTFs and report inventory via email within 72 hours of receipt of this message the following information: the quantity of each presentation and the expiration dates of the YF-VAX to the unit's assigned Defense Health Agency (DHA) Immunization Healthcare Specialist (IHS). To locate the assigned DHA IHS please use the following link http://www.vaccines.mil/map

To register for vaccine MMQC messages
http://www.usamma.amedd.army.mil/assets/apps/listserv/messages.cfm

4. Zika Epidemic On US Doorstep Spurs Vaccine Hunt

(CNBC) The rapid spread of the zika virus across the Americas has spurred research bodies and pharmaceutical companies to start the hunt for a cure, but the financial incentive and likely length of time for a vaccine to be developed are unclear. Cases of the virus, which has appeared in countries across the Americas and the Caribbean, have already been reported among travelers returning to the U.S. An article in The Lancet medical journal this month warned that in wetter and warmer parts of the U.S., mosquitoes could carry the virus from infected travelers and spread it to other people. Zika Vaccines are in the Works, But Still Years Away (LiveScience) With Zika virus continuing to extend its reach across the Americas, and a growing body of evidence suggesting that the virus may be responsible for increases in cases of two neurological disorders, demands for a vaccine are urgent. Infections with Zika are usually mild. Officials' primary concerns about the virus are over its possible links to a birth defect called microcephaly, which causes babies to be born with underdeveloped heads, and Guillain-Barré syndrome, which affects people of any age and can cause muscle weakness and paralysis.

5. CDC Releases 2016 Immunization Schedules

(AAFP.org) The CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released the 2016 adult and childhood immunization schedules. Changes this year include updated recommendations for the pneumococcal vaccination in older adults and for serogroup B meningococcal vaccination in children and adolescents.

For the Pneumococcal vaccine; the interval between the 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine and the 23-valent vaccine is changed from "6 to 12 months" to "at least 1 year" for healthy adults aged ≥65 years old.

For the Meningococcal vaccine; those at increased risk, either because of a group B meningococcal disease outbreak or certain immunocompromising conditions, medications, or asplenia are recommended to receive the MEN B vaccine. However, the ACIP left it up to the doctor's discretion whether to recommend the Meningitis B vaccine for healthy individuals depending upon the patient's situation, saying that "adolescents and young adults aged 16-23 years may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccine to provide short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease."

6. DHA / IHB Training Opportunities

Upcoming Basic Courses (SQIPC)
The IHB Standards for Quality Immunization Practice Course (SQIPC) is a one day course designed to ensure healthcare personnel are trained in vaccine policy, vaccine safety, effectiveness, and the standards of military immunizations. This is designed in accordance with the immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for Immunization practice.

Vilseck, Germany - Option C  07 Apr 2016
Camp Lejeune, NC 12 Apr 2016
Fort Knox, KY 26 Apr 2016
Joint Base Andrews, MD 24 May 2016
Okinawa, Japan 13 Jul 2016
Seoul, Korea 18 Jul 2016
Fort Hood, TX 16 Aug 2016
Fort Lee, VA 18 Aug 2016
Camp Pendleton California 20 Sep 2016

To Enroll:  http://www.vaccines.mil/SQIPC

Upcoming Leaders Courses (ILPC)

The Immunization Program Leaders Course is a two day course designed to ensure credentialed healthcare providers, clinical managers, and other senior leaders understand responsibilities for the successful management of an immunization program.

The Immunization Program Leaders Course is to train credentialed healthcare providers, clinical managers, and other senior leaders to provide quality immunization services, exhibit competency when participating in risk communication activities, and exercise good immunization program management techniques for medical personnel assigned to administer immunizations in the clinic.

Participants should be the credentialed providers (Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants), Nurses, and other healthcare personnel who provide direct oversight and management of immunization activities.

Camp Lejeune, NC 13 Apr 2016
Fort Knox, KY 27 Apr 2016
Joint Base Andrews, MD 25 May 2016
Okinawa, Japan 14 Jul 2016
Seoul, Korea 19 Jul 2016
Fort Hood, TX 17 Aug 2016
Camp Pendleton CA 21 Sep 2016

To Enroll:  http://www.vaccines.mil/IPLC

For a complete description of all the courses offered by DHA-IHB please see our website and check out the many education opportunities that are available within Immunization University.
7. Upcoming Conferences

Philadelphia Immunization Coalition (PIC)
   Philadelphia, PA
   20 Apr 2016

California Immunization Coalition
   Sacramento, CA
   24-25 Apr 2016
   http://www.immunizeca.org/about/cic-summit

ACIP Meetings for 2016
   http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/upcoming-dates.html

DHA - Immunization Healthcare Branch
   http://www.vaccines.mil

(877)GET-VACC
   DoDVaccines@mail.mil

Please feel free to pass this message on to your colleagues. To add or remove your name from this mailing list, please click here -- http://www.vaccines.mil/listserv