



"I am so grateful for access to KIDSNET! As a school nurse-teacher in the middle school, it has saved me so much time in making sure that all seventh grade students are compliant with the required immunizations. With time constraints in the health office I would not be able to complete this part of my job efficiently without KIDSNET."

-Diana McPherson, CSNT; Burrillville Middle School

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CENTER FOR HEALTH DATA AND ANALYSIS (CHDA)

Sam Viner-Brown
Chief

Ellen Amore
KIDSNET Program Manager
ellen.amore@health.ri.gov
401-222-4601

Kim Salisbury-Keith
Development Manager
kim.salisburykeith@health.ri.gov
401-222-5925

Jeff Goggin
Immunization Interface Manager
jeff.goggin@health.ri.gov
401-222-4968

PROVIDER RELATIONS
Janet Limoges
janet.limoges@health.ri.gov
401-222-7681

Gail Barbone Miller
gail.barbonemiller@health.ri.gov
401-222-4644

PROGRAMMER
Jeannine Warrener

DATA MANAGEMENT/DATA QUALITY
Joel Balkum
Evan Bessette
Christine Griffin
AJ Lizarda
Richard Lupino



Information
for
Prevention

TIP OF THE DAY

Starting in the fall of 2015, there will be new vaccination requirements for kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grade entry. KIDSNET reports can help identify patients in your practice who need a physical and/or vaccinations. Log on to KIDSNET (www.kidsnet.health.ri.gov) using your authorized User ID and password. Select **Practice Reports** from the left hand menu:

- ▶ For **Kindergarten:**
 - 1 Select the School Eligible Report
 - 2 Enter 09/01/2015 in search fields
 - 3 Select Generate Report
- ▶ For **7th and 12th Grades:**
 - 1 Select Patient List Report
 - 2 Fill in the date of birth search fields for:
7th Grade, 09/01/2002 to 08/31/2003
12th Grade, 09/01/1997 to 08/31/1998
 - 3 Select the Generate Report button

Review the immunizations for patients listed on the report and identify patients who still need required vaccine(s) for school entry this fall. (Note: The reports will list all kids who fall within the ages requested; however, it will not specify whether a patient is due for vaccine(s). Rhode Island's updated immunization regulations are available online: www.health.ri.gov/immunization/for/schools/

For additional KIDSNET training or if you have questions contact:
Janet Limoges, janet.limoges@health.ri.gov, 222-7681 or
Gail Barbone Miller, gail.barbonemiller@health.ri.gov, 222-4644

UPDATED OFFICIAL IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Official immunization exemption certificates have been updated and can be ordered from HEALTH's Distribution Center at no cost.

State immunization regulations allow that a student may only be exempt from the immunization requirements described in these Regulations for either of the two (2) reasons stated below:
-continued



(i) A physician, a physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner or other licensed practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice signs the Rhode Island Department of Health's Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate provided by the school attesting that the student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of medical reasons, in accordance with ACIP recommendations; or

(ii) A parent or guardian completes and signs the Department's Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate provided by the school, attesting that immunization conflicts with the tenets of their religious beliefs. <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/7602.pdf>

Updated medical, religious, temporary, healthcare worker, and childcare worker exemption certificates are available at: <http://health.ri.gov/order/publications/>

A copy of the immunization exemption certificate no longer has to be sent to HEALTH. School Nurse Teachers are required to retain original copies of students' immunization exemptions.

RHODE ISLAND VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (RIVERS)

A new electronic birth certificate system is now being used in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Vital Event Registration System (RIVERS) collects information needed to complete a birth certificate and is an important source of maternal and child health information. The newborn developmental risk assessment completed on all babies born in Rhode Island is included in RIVERS. A daily file downloaded from RIVERS creates records in KIDSNET for every child born Rhode Island within two days of birth. Data from RIVERS is linked to other preventive health screening data in KIDSNET in order to cross check and assure that all babies receive newborn blood-spot tests, hearing screening and follow-up, hepatitis B vaccination, and any necessary immunoglobulin treatment. Newborn developmental risk screenings helps to identify babies who might be at developmental risk. New mothers who test positive are referred to the Family Visiting program. As children grow, KIDSNET serves as a resource to assure that additional preventive health services such as immunization and lead screening are provided.

NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK (NIIW)



This year, **National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is scheduled for April 26th – May 3rd** and will focus on the role immunization plays in protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. This year marks the 21st year of both NIIW and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which provides vaccines at no cost for children who might otherwise not be vaccinated because of an inability to pay.

The CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award, given jointly by the CDC Foundation and CDC, honors individuals who are doing an exemplary job or going above and beyond to promote childhood immunizations in their communities.

Past Rhode Island Immunization Champions include:

- ▶ **2014:** Dr. Richard K. Ohnmacht; Pediatrician, Cranston
- ▶ **2013:** Dr. Penelope Dennehy; Director, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases for Hasbro Children's Hospital, Providence
- ▶ **2012:** Dr. Elizabeth Lange; Pediatrician, Waterman Pediatrics/Coastal Medical, Inc., East Providence

The **2015** Rhode Island award winner will be announced during NIIW week

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEARING ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (NCHAM) SURVEY

On February 11th, National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) hosted the webinar, Meeting the Needs of Physicians in Support of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), presented by Karl White, Ph.D.; Diane Behl, M.Ed. From NCHAM; and Jack Levine, MD, FAAP, Member, EHDI Leadership Team, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). You can find the recorded webinar at www.infanthearing.org.

NCHAM continues efforts to assist with implementation and improvement of comprehensive EHDI systems. An investigation of the knowledge, skills, and practices of the medical home in regard to EHDI was conducted with physicians across the country and revealed a continued perceived lack of preparation to meet the needs of infants with hearing loss and a limited knowledge about risks associated with hearing loss. The results of the Pediatric Hearing Aid Retention Project Survey were described by Jane R Madell, PhD and Karen Anderson, PhD in an article for Volta Voices (Sept/Oct 2014). The article highlights the multiple challenges of keeping hearing aids on infants and young children and suggests ways to overcome them.

The hearing survey was designed for parents and for audiologists who are members of the American Academy of Audiology. There were 286 responses from parents and 101 responses from audiologists. The survey examined the feelings of parents and audiologists towards a number of different hearing aid devices and retention accessories and asked them to rate the devices based on effectiveness, durability, ease of use, and safety.

Overall, the survey found that parents and audiologists preferred a wide range of devices; however, there are differing opinions between families and audiologists. In addition, between 20% and 55% of parents were not aware of certain devices mentioned in the survey, indicating that parents are not aware of the full range of devices available for their children. The study showed that a gap may exist in what an audiologist believes is effective and what families find to be beneficial in improving hearing aid retention. The authors recommend that audiologists and families talk regularly to determine if children are having trouble with hearing aid retention and to make sure parents understand all of the available hearing aid retention options available.

Source: Madell, JR, Anderson, K. Hearing Aid Retention for Infants and Young Children. Volta Voices. 2014, September/October.

For more information contact Liza Then, Newborn Hearing Screening Manager, liza.then@health.ri.gov.

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data & Analysis (CHDA), KIDSNET Program,
3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908, HEALTH Information Line, 401-222-5960 /RI Relay 711, www.health.ri.gov