



Public Health Bulletin

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New HPV Vaccine Added to State's VFC Program

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cervical cancer prevention vaccine, licensed by the FDA in June 2006, for females 9 through 26 years of age.

The vaccine is made using a protein from the surface of the virus. It protects against four types of HPV: types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Types 16 and 18 are responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancers. Types 6 and 11 are responsible for about 90 percent of cases of anal and genital warts.

HPV Disease

HPV causes many types of common warts. At least 70 HPV types have been associated with specific manifestations and more than 20 types of HPV can infect the genital tract. Most genital HPV infections are asymptomatic, sub-clinical, or unrecognized. CDC indicates, once infected it may take 2 to 3 months to develop symptoms, but can range from 1-20 months. An infected person can spread the virus at least as long as lesions are present. Most of the time, HPV goes away on its own and doesn't cause any health problems. However, sometimes HPV can linger and lead to cervical cancer, usually

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Increase in Reported Valley Fever Cases in County Since October

San Luis Obispo County has had an increase in reported coccidioidomycosis (Valley fever) cases over the past couple of months. Northern regions of the county have seen the bulk of cases.

“Cocci” is an infection caused by a fungus, *Coccidioides immitis*, which is endemic to San Luis Obispo County. Exposure to dust and soil increases the risk for infection.

The CDC defines a clinical case as an illness characterized by one or more of the following:

- Influenza-like signs and symptoms
- Pneumonia or other pulmonary lesion, diagnosed by chest radiograph
- Erythema nodosum or erythema multiforme rash
- Involvement of bones, joints, or skin by dissemination
- Meningitis

• Involvement of viscera and lymph nodes
Laboratory criteria for diagnosis includes:

- Cultural, histopathologic, or molecular evidence of presence of *C. immitis*, or
- Positive serologic test for coccidioidal antibodies in serum or cerebrospinal fluid by:
 1. Detection of coccidioidal IgM by immunodiffusion, EIA, latex agglutination, or tube precipitin.
 2. Detection of rising titer of coccidioidal IgG by immunodiffusion, EIA, or complement fixation.

The early manifestations of “cocci” are similar to those of other causes of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP). A study by Valdiva (2006) showed that in a “cocci” endemic region

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HPV (cont.)

in their forties and fifties. Every year in the U.S., approximately 10,000 women develop cervical cancer and 4,000 die from the disease.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. and around the world. More than half of sexually active people will be infected with HPV of some type in their lives. Twenty million Americans are currently infected with HPV and another 6 million become infected every year. Half of those newly infected with HPV are between 15 and 24 years of age.

Recommendations

The HPV vaccine is recommended for all girls between 11 and 12 years of age. Even if a teen has been diagnosed with an abnormal Pap Smear, the vaccine is still recommended up through age 26, in order to prevent infection from other strains. Several pediatricians have privately purchased the vaccine and are giving it in a three dose series: 0, 2 months and 6 months after the 1st. The state VFC program will be distributing the vaccine to all VFC providers in late December. The Public Health Department will be making appointments in January for girls and women ages 9 through 26. Parents must be present for consent if under 18. For women 19 – 26 years, the price is \$150 for each dose and \$25 for the office visit. There is no cost for the vaccine through the VFC program, but there is a \$25 office visit fee, or Medi-Cal is accepted.

More information can be found at www.vaccineinformation.org/HPV/

Training Classes for Immunization Providers

The Public Health Department will host free satellite training for immunization providers in January and February. The four-part training is titled *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* and is a comprehensive overview of the principles of vaccination, general recommendations, immunization strategies for providers, and specific information about vaccine-preventable diseases and the vaccines that prevent them. More information can be found at: www2a.cdc.gov/PHTN/calendar.asp

The sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on four consecutive Thursdays beginning January 25 at the Public Health Department conference room at 2191 Johnson Avenue in San Luis Obispo.

The training is recommended for immunization providers including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physician's assistants, DoD paraprofessionals and medical students.

To reserve a seat, call Liz Sandoval at 781-2357. Registration for CEU credit will be available soon at www2a.cdc.gov/phtnonline/

Preteen Vaccine Week is January 21-27

This year, more than one million 11- and 12-year-olds in California make up the "preteen" population. Preteen Vaccine Week is a celebration of the preteen doctor visit as the first step in the right direction for a healthy start as an adolescent. Help us spread the word, and urge families of preteens to schedule their child's preteen doctor visit! Some materials are available for download at: www.getimmunizedca.org

Shots that are recommended for the 11- and 12-year-olds include:

- Tetanus booster (Tdap), which also protects against whooping cough.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) can protect girls from cervical cancer.
- A second chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine if they have never had chickenpox or only received one dose previously.
- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4).

Immunization Levels in Local Child Care Centers

This state-required assessment was completed in December 2006, with the following provisional results by center type:

	Total	Public	Private	Head Start
Number of facilities reporting	83	24	44	15
Total enrollment 2-4 years, 11 months	2,911	551	1,950	410
Follow-up needed	292	45	109	138
No follow-up needed	2,619	506	1,841	272
Percent fully immunized	91%	90%	95%	75%

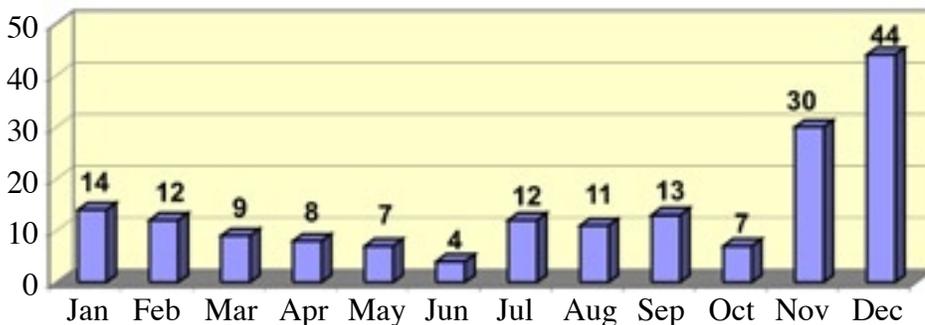
The percent fully immunized is affected by how many children have not received all their vaccines, or have not turned in their immunizations to the center, or due to medical or personal exemptions for the child. Last year, the county was at 88.87%, and state was 93.26%.

Valley Fever (cont.)

in Arizona, 29% of patients with recent onset of a lower respiratory tract syndrome were serologically confirmed for “cocci.” It was also noted in the study that symptomatic differences in patients had insufficient predictive value to guide clinicians without specific laboratory tests. “Cocci” is a common cause of CAP after exposure in a disease-endemic region. When evaluating patients with community acquired pneumonias, please consider “cocci” as a differential diagnosis.

Valley Fever is at epidemic levels in San Luis Obispo, afflicting 51% more people in 2006 than in 2005. Over 40% of the 171 cases in 2006 were reported during November and December (see graph below). As of January 17, twenty-two cases have already been reported to the county and we expect to see more. Coccidioidomycosis is a reportable condition (California Code of Regulations, CCR 2500) and must be reported to the Public Health Department by faxing a Confidential Morbidity Report to 781-5543. If you have any further questions, please call the SLO County Public Health Department at 781-5500.

Number of Reported “Cocci” Cases by Month in San Luis Obispo County 2006



After 3 years of planning, San Luis Obispo County has opened a center dedicated to screening, assessment, referral and treatment for children prenatally exposed to alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Called Martha’s Place, the Children’s Assessment Center will evaluate children who show a high risk for alcohol and drug-related neurological disorders. The center will initially work with children up to age 5 who are in foster care or adopted homes, because they are the most at-risk children

Martha’s Place is a collaborative program of agencies and non-profit organizations and will fill a critical diagnostic and treatment gap for children with special needs in San Luis Obispo County. For more information on the services provided by Martha’s Place, call Joseph Holifield, Ph.D., Clinical Director at 544-4355, ext. 284.

Free Smoking Cessation Classes in January

San Luis Obispo

Wednesday, January 3
Orientation #1
Wednesday, January 10
Orientation #2
Tuesday-Friday, January 16-19
Class
Wednesday, January 24
Follow-up Support
Wednesday, January 31
Orientation #1
All classes are 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Grover Beach

Tuesday, January 2
Support
Tuesday, January 9
Orientation #1
Tuesday, January 16
Orientation #2
Monday-Thursday, January 22-25
Class
Tuesday, January 30
Follow-up Support
All classes are 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Paso Robles/Atascadero

Thursday, January 4 and 11
Class
Tuesday-Friday, January 16-19
Class
Thursday, January 25
Follow-up Support
All classes are 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Please call 781-5564 to register for class in one of these cities.

Disaster Volunteer Registry for Health Professionals

The Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, or ESAR-VHP, is a new tool available at the California Medical Volunteer's web site for California physicians, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, and behavioral health professionals, enabling them to pre-register as a disaster volunteer.

To register, go to the web site <https://medicalvolunteer.ca.gov>. Once there, the registration process takes 10 to 15 minutes.

You will be asked for contact information, licensure information, specialty and subspecialty, health and vaccination status, and other various skills, including languages spoken. If you don't have all of your information with you when you first visit, you can still start the registration process, save the information under your account, and return later to finish the registration

or update information.

Once you register, your license and credentials are checked against state and national databases to ensure you have a full and unrestricted license. When you register, you can designate whether you wish to be deployed to local, national or international events requiring volunteers.

The program offers limited liability coverage and workers compensation to volunteers while deployed to an event. In a disaster, emergency managers at EMSA will determine what level of volunteers are needed at the event, and search the database for registered volunteers who match the mission profile. Potential volunteers will be contacted and given a quick synopsis of the mission and instructed how to accept or decline the deployment.

If you accept, you will be sent

further information – where and when to report for deployment, what to expect, etc. After completing your mission, your ESAR-VHP profile automatically updates to indicate your mission history and experience.

The program gives practitioners an opportunity to pre-register as a disaster medical volunteer, but still allows each person the flexibility to decide whether or not to accept any potential deployments. With this system in place, persons wishing to volunteer can have all of the logistical and security arrangements made for them, so that they can concentrate on what they do best – provide aid to persons in desperate need during a catastrophic event. The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department urges you to consider registering, and contributing your expertise during a disaster.

County Implements Electronic Death Registry System

On November 1, 2006 San Luis Obispo County joined the ranks of 16 other California counties who have implemented the State's Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS). The web-based EDRS provides the ability for coroners, funeral directors, doctors and hospitals to submit requests for electronic death certificates 24 hours a day, making it more convenient for them and expediting the process of creating death certificates. This new system has many benefits including, but not limited to:

- electronic creation and faster registration of death certificates;
- quick determination of the status for a pending death certificate;
- ability for physicians to remotely attest medical information by either voice, signature or FAX, eliminating the need to track down medical certifiers for signatures;
- ability for local registrars to run a wide variety of reports, sorting data by age, name, cause of death, names without Social Security Numbers, adults without addresses, date of deaths, pending death certificate aging report, and more, along with data export capability.
- issuance of disposition permits in funeral homes.

For more information, please call Diedre Villarreal at 781-5514 or visit the California EDRS web site at www.edrs.us.



Beginnings - A Coordinated Response to Improve Perinatal Substance Abuse Services in San Luis Obispo County

Over the past two years, Beginnings has recognized that the collective expertise of its members is its primary asset. By coming together on an ongoing basis, the following goals and the activities have been identified:

- 1) Develop a sustained, clear message presented in a compelling fashion regarding the harm caused by the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, to women of child-bearing age and the men, family and friends who have an influence on these women
- 2) Screen and assess the women who are endangering their unborn child,
- 3) Provide access to treatment for these women.

With the support of First 5 San Luis Obispo County, Beginnings will continue to work together to develop the following activities to educate the public and our policy makers:

- Disseminate the film “How Much Is Too Much?” for use to health classes in middle, junior, and high schools as well as local colleges. The seven-minute film graphically displays the dangers of alcohol, drugs and tobacco use on the growing fetus was produced. It emphasizes that we do not know how much is too much to damage the growing child. Therefore, the best plan is not to take chances with the child’s future by drinking, smoking or taking drugs while pregnant or nursing.
- Create a Cal Poly-Cuesta binge-drinking curriculum that targets each class by expanding our relationship with the Cal Poly Health Services and their Peer Health Education program to disseminate the message.
- Attend open houses and other school and community functions, to disseminate information and encourage young men and women to sign the NineZero pledge to remain alcohol and drug free during pregnancy and while nursing.
- Recognize September 9, 2007 as part of National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day, by showing the film “ I Am Concerned,” produced by the Children’s Research Triangle in Chicago, at a major venue in San Luis Obispo County. The 27-minute film is a documentary on the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.
- Encourage the wine industry, an important economic force in this community, to become our partner. We will approach wineries in a non-judgmental manner and ask them to participate by providing women who are pregnant an alternative at their wine-tasting rooms, wine-maker dinners, and other public functions.
- Provide ongoing “I am concerned...” trainings to all medical staff (i.e., OB doctors, nurses and clerical staff) as well as hospital personnel who have contact with pregnant women. CEUs will be offered for this in-service training. These trainings will be held in convenient locations for medical personnel so they are able to attend (i.e., in each of the four hospitals throughout the county).
- Expand our relationship with school personnel, specifically middle school and junior high school nurses and counselors, to educate them in the “I Am Concerned...” approach and encourage them to bring the information to health classes.

The next Beginnings meeting is Monday, February 5 from 9 -11 a.m. at the Public Health Department, 2191 Johnson Avenue, Waiting Room. Participation from health providers, community groups, and parents is welcome. For more information, call Lisa Fraser of the San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Council at 543-6216 or visit the web site at www.beginningsofslo.org

San Luis Obispo County Reported Cases of Selected Communicable Diseases - 2006

Disease	Jan. - Sept.	October	November	December	Total 2006	Total 2005
AIDS	1	0	0	0	1	14
Amebiasis	0	1	0	0	1	1
Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	0	3
Campylobacteriosis	38	6	2	8	54	54
Chlamydia	411	56	32	68	567	549
Coccidioidomycosis*	84	5	27	31	147	115
Cryptosporidiosis	15	3	0	5	23	6
E. Coli 0157:H7	2	0	0	0	2	6
Giardiasis	19	0	1	1	21	19
Gonorrhea	34	4	2	2	42	49
Hepatitis A	12	0	0	0	12	5
Hepatitis B	61	5	0	3	69	94
Hepatitis C Acute	6	0	0	0	6	1
Hepatitis C Chronic	359	27	34	32	452	502
Hepatitis, Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	2	0	0	0	2	2
Measles (Rubeola)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis - Total	20	2	2	4	28	34
Meningitis - Viral	13	2	2	4	21	23
Meningitis, H-Flu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Disease	3	0	0	0	3	1
Pertussis	68	0	2	5	75	110
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	35	2	0	5	42	23
Shigellosis	10	4	3	3	20	5
Syphilis - Total	8	0	0	1	9	13
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	2	7
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	1	1	0
W. Nile Virus Neuroinvasive	1	0	1	0	1	0

Some numbers may have changed since last bulletin. Data is provisional through 1/2/07. *Reported to the CA Dept. of Health Services.



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