

# December 2016 Jab & Gab Newsletter

Your Immunization Resource!



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## From the Immunization Unit Manager

Jude Alden, MBA, CPM

### Reflecting on 2016

This past year has been a year of great change for the Immunization Unit. We have seen long time staff members move on to new careers while others moved up to lead the Unit forward into the next stages of success. We have seen the development of great new immunization resources such as the [AIM Adult Immunization Resources Guide](#) and the [HPV STEPS](#) guide, as well as the completion of significant studies such as the [ACOG Maternal Influenza Review Program](#).

We also saw outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases this year with nine states reporting measles outbreaks while several others experienced outbreaks of mumps. We saw an epidemic scale outbreak of whooping cough in California and other outbreaks across the nation. With most of these outbreaks being only a plane ride away, our purpose and dedication to the promotion of immunizations seems that much more important.

I welcome all of you to join us on the exciting journey that awaits us in 2017. We will continue to add new staff members including a Clinical Specialist, as well as work diligently to present Wyoming

healthcare providers with another fantastic Immunization Conference in May. We will focus our efforts on continuing to improve immunization rates and share immunization and exemption data publicly like never before. We will be seeking new partners during this next year to help us make an impact and work towards our immunization goal of Bringing Immunity to Every Community!

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## Welcome Our New Staff!



We are very excited to introduce to you all our new Provider Support Specialist, Aundrea Moore! Aundrea has an associates degree in Business Administration and Accounting. After college she took a path that led her to healthcare to a job where she worked with several agencies to meet the financial needs of uninsured patients at the hospital in Cheyenne. She is very passionate about helping other people in any way; if she could help everyone she would which makes her a great fit for the Wyoming Immunization Unit! Aundrea says that she is grateful to have found a career doing exactly what she loves and helping others in the State. Outside of work she loves to drag race at the track. Although she does not have children, she does have 2 dogs and 2 cats that she absolutely adores as if they were her children. We are very excited have her with the Wyoming Department of Health and as part of the Immunization team! Aundrea can be reached by phone at: 307-777-8503 and by email at: [Aundrea.Moore@wyo.gov](mailto:Aundrea.Moore@wyo.gov).

In addition, the Immunization Unit welcomes a new Administrative Specialist. Ester Weaver comes to us from within the Department of Health and brings with her many years of experience and a high level of customer service. Ester expresses great pride in her work and she will make a great addition to the Immunization team. Ester's first day with the Unit is January 3rd.

Please join us in welcoming these two fantastic women to our team!!

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## RN Wanted!!

As our current Clinical & AFIX Specialist is moving on to new adventures, the Immunization Unit is currently seeking an enthusiastic RN who can play an integral role in the promotion and education of immunizations. We are very excited to welcome a new team member as we identify some very exciting projects for the upcoming year.

If you are interested or know someone who would love to work for the Department of Health, more importantly with the best team ever, [please apply by clicking HERE!!](#)

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## Top Stories

### 2017 Wyoming Immunization Conference - Register Today!

**Kristy Westfall, VFC Coordinator**

We are excited to announce that we have set the date for the 2017 Wyoming Immunization Conference! The 2017 conference will take place May 17-18 at the Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Casper.

We have lots of exciting Exhibitor and Sponsor opportunities this year as well! Be sure to reserve your spot early! To register and for additional information, please visit the Immunization Conference webpage at: [www.immunizewyoming.com](http://www.immunizewyoming.com).

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## Making a Difference, One Shot at a Time

Lisa Sara, Compliance Specialist



*"One Person can make a difference, and everyone should try."*

~John F. Kennedy

This month the Immunization Program would like to recognize the **Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department** for a job well done. Straight out of the gate, Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department started their flu season administering 121 doses of the flu vaccine in their first two days of flu clinics. By the end of October they had conducted over 30 off site flu clinics and were able to administer the flu vaccine to over 1,500 patients. The Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department staff is truly doing their part to help us in our goal of *"Bringing Immunity to Every Community"* - Great Job!

If you have a success story you would like to share, please let us know by contacting the Wyoming Immunization Program staff at 307-777-7952.

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## Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Professionals

LaChel May, CPM, Compliance Specialist

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual influenza vaccination for all healthcare personnel to reduce the spread of influenza in healthcare settings. For the 2014-15 influenza season, the estimated overall influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel was 77.3%.

Influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel during the 2015-16 influenza season, assessed using an opt-in Internet panel survey, was 79.0%, similar to coverage during the 2014-15 season.

[Click here to read the full article to learn more.](#)

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## Vaccine Updates

### 2-Dose Schedule for HPV

Jude Alden, MBA, CPM, Immunization Unit Manager

CDC and ACIP have published a new recommendation for use of a 2-dose schedule for girls and boys who initiate the vaccination series at ages 9 through 14 years. Three doses remain recommended for persons who initiate the vaccination series at ages 15 through 26 years and for immunocompromised persons.

The WyIR forecast has not yet been updated to reflect the 2-dose schedule but will be updated soon. Please do not make adjustments to vaccinations that have already been entered into the system as a work around to prevent invalid dose indicators or errors. These errors will be corrected automatically once the system is updated. The update is expected prior to the end of January.

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## Public Vaccine Programs

### Pentacel® Allocation Lifted

Kristy Westfall, VFC Coordinator

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced this week that there is no longer an allocation on the Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV-Hib) vaccine. What this means is that enrolled providers can order the vaccine in normal quantities.

If considering a transition back to Pentacel® from alternate vaccines, it is important to take precautions to prevent waste of vaccine that was previously ordered. The Vaccine Restitution Policy in Wyoming states that providers will be required to replace any expired vaccine resulting in more than ten (10) doses of any vaccine type within thirty (30) days. Therefore, you will want to plan to use any current vaccine stock that was ordered during the Pentacel® shortage prior to ordering large quantities of Pentacel®.

Also, as a reminder, providers are only authorized to order a three (3) month supply of vaccine at any time. This is calculated by taking the doses administered the previous month (DA) multiplied by three months (3) and then subtracting the current inventory (CI):  $DA * 3 - CI = \text{recommended order quantity}$ . Because there has been an allocation on Pentacel® and the DA is less than "normal" right now, providers will need to order moderately. If you have any questions, please contact Kristy Westfall, VFC Coordinator at [kristy.westfall1@wyo.gov](mailto:kristy.westfall1@wyo.gov).

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## 2017 Public Vaccine Program Enrollment

**Kristy Westfall, VFC Coordinator**



Each year providers must re-enroll in the Public Vaccine Programs in order to continue receiving vaccines at no cost. The process has been enhanced over the past few years to be easier for providers and Immunization staff but we are excited to announce that this year's enrollment process is going to be even better! The 2017 Provider Enrollment will take place in the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR) which will alleviate the submission of multiple PDF documents.

We are still in the process of fine tuning everything to ensure a smooth transition. Please be on the lookout for more detailed information and training that will be coming out in January 2017.

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## 2016 Site Visit Summary

**LaChel May, CPM, Compliance Specialist**

2016 was another great year of site visits, with all but 7 providers receiving visits. Overall, the Compliance Specialists conducted 14 Unannounced Storage & Handling Site Visits, 106 VFC Compliance Site Visits, and, 4 New Provider Enrollment Site Visits!

We are very excited to report that 54% of providers scored a 100% on their site visit, meaning they were compliant with all VFC Program requirements. **Great Job Providers!!**

[Click here to read the full article to see the problem areas that were identified this year as well as a few reminders going into 2017.](#)

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## Billing Public Vaccine Program Vaccine Administration Fees

**LaChel May, CPM, Compliance Specialist**



While completing Compliance Site Visits this year, Compliance Specialists ran across several providers who were confused about billing publicly supplied vaccine administration fees. Publicly supplied vaccine administration fees can become confusing between the different vaccine programs. Listed below are a few guidelines that may make billing vaccine administration fees less confusing.

Public Vaccine Program Providers must adhere to proper billing practices when billing vaccine administration fees and clearly understand that publicly supplied vaccine is provided at no cost to both the provider and eligible patients. At no time should billing occur for the cost of the publicly supplied vaccine. (Wyoming's Vaccine Administration Fee Cap is \$21.72)

[Click here to read the full article to learn more.](#)

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## Protecting Your Vaccines This Holiday Season

**Lisa Sara, Compliance Specialist**

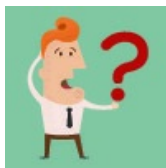


*"Holiday vaca is sneaking up fast, time from the office will sure be a blast! You check off your list of things you must do, you've ordered your vaccines and counted them too. But something's amiss, something's askew. What could be missing, what did you not do?"*

[Proper vaccine storage and handling can often be forgotten. Before you leave the office this holiday season, click here to read the full article to be sure these five \(5\) storage and handling questions are on your list too.](#)

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## Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR)



### Interoperability and HL7 - What's it all about?

**Jennifer M. Gray, Interoperability Specialist**

Ever listen to someone talk interoperability? Or perhaps just computer programming period? It's almost like speaking Klingon-or listening to it anyways. If you are in healthcare, chances are you work daily with some sort of electronic health record (EHR) within a larger information system and you utilize and interact with the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR). For some facilities, directly entering data into the registry is the only option. For many other facilities providing vaccinations, interoperability is used to transfer the information over to the WyIR via Health Level Seven (HL7). What is interoperability and HL7? In the next couple paragraphs, I'll explain both interoperability and HL7 with the hopes that you, the reader and healthcare professional, will hold a better understanding of these systems.

[Click here to read the full article to learn more about interoperability and HL7.](#)

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### WyIR Terminology: What is the difference between a WyIR Contact, Facility Contact, Facility Coordinator, and Vaccine Coordinator?

**Aspen Joiner, Assistant WyIR Support Specialist**

Since there have been new updates and policies with the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR), we wanted to clarify some of the terminology, roles, and forms that are associated with the WyIR. To start, all WyIR users must have an Enrollment Form in place to gain or maintain WyIR access. This is a different enrollment form than what is used to enroll in a Public Vaccine Program (PVP). The WyIR Enrollment Form identifies a WyIR Contact and Facility Contact. There are two different enrollment

forms that the PVP will need sent in as well.

[Click here to read the full article to learn more.](#)

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## **Inventory Management for HL7 Participants**

**Jennifer M. Gray, Interoperability Specialist**

I want to take a moment and briefly discuss inventory management and the processes involved, especially with publicly supplied vaccines. When it comes time to reconcile the inventory in the WylR at the end of the month and there is a noticeable discrepancy and one or more of the vaccine numbers are off- Is troubleshooting occurring to find out why? Or are the numbers just being adjusted out of that inventory on the reconciliation page? If the latter of these two are happening, assistance in troubleshooting the issues can be found in reaching out to the WylR team for help.

[Click here to view the full article and to learn more.](#)

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## **Schools & Child Caring Facilities**

### **2016 Immunization Assessment: FINAL CALL!**

**Jude Alden, MBA, CPM, Immunization Unit Manager**

The final date for child caring facilities and schools to complete the 2016 Immunization Assessment is December 30th. If the assessment has not yet been completed, please do so as soon as possible as failing to do so will result in noncompliance with the Mandatory Immunization Rules. Please be aware that the Department promulgated the Mandatory Immunization Rules pursuant to its authority under Wyoming Statutes § 35-4- 101. Rules, Wyo. Dep't of Health, Mandatory Immunizations, ch. 1, § 1 and Wyoming Statutes § 35-4- 101 provide penalties for any person violating or refusing to obey the Department's rules for the management and control of communicable disease.



This grace period allows you to become compliant with the Mandatory Immunization Rules. The link to the assessment webpage can be found at [www.immunizewyoming.com](http://www.immunizewyoming.com). Please do not hesitate to contact Jude Alden, Immunization Unit Manager at 307-777-6001 or [jude.alden@wyo.gov](mailto:jude.alden@wyo.gov) for guidance on how to complete the assessment.

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### **Woe is Me and Hepatitis B**

**Val Knepp, RN, Clinical & AFIX Specialist**

It all began in early September; teachers were back in their classrooms, kids were back at their desks, and school nurses were back in their offices looking at student's immunization records using their school's Student Information System (SIS). This normally straightforward task turned into an outright nightmare for many.

Come to find out, many school districts had implemented upgrades to the immunization application in their SIS's. One key feature in doing so was that now this application identifies invalid doses of administered vaccines. All of a sudden, after years of being compliant with the Hepatitis B vaccination series, a myriad of students were now showing as not-compliant because one or more of the doses they received were not valid.

[Click here to read the full article and learn more.](#)

## Education, Training, & Resources

### The Importance of Vaccine Documentation

LaChel May, CPM, Compliance Specialist



Patients can get their vaccines from many different healthcare professionals including primary care doctors, pharmacies, immunization clinics, and many other sources. Because of this, having an accurate record of what immunizations patients have received versus what they need can be challenging, but it is very important. To ensure patients get the vaccines they need and to prevent unnecessary vaccination, healthcare professionals should:

- Record vaccinations in the patient's medical record
- Provide documentation of vaccines received to the patient after they are administered
- Document immunizations in the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR)

Not having accurate immunization records could lead to unnecessary vaccinations or worst case scenario - leaving someone vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases due to non-vaccination. Even if your facility does not administer vaccines, it is recommended that you educate all of your patients on the importance of getting immunized and provide recommendations of where they can go to get immunizations. For more information on the importance of vaccine documentation and additional documentation resources, check out the [CDC's Vaccine Documentation resource](#).

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