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New Immunization Alliance Issues National Call to Action

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued the following information in a September 18, 2008, press release distributed via PRNewswire-USNewswire. We've excerpted the original content due to size constraints.

Concerns about keeping immunization rates at adequate levels have prompted the nation's leading medical and advocacy groups to join together to raise the public's confidence in vaccines. The Immunization Alliance calls on policymakers, public health agencies, physicians, and the public to work together to preserve the health of the nation's children through immunization. The Alliance, which is made up of medical, public health and parent organizations, met recently to discuss the increase in questions from parents about the value of, and need for, today's childhood vaccines.

"We do not want to become a nation of people who are vulnerable to diseases that are deadly or that can have serious complications, especially if those diseases can be prevented," said Renee Jenkins, MD, FAAP, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "The groups in this Alliance have made a commitment to pool our resources and expertise, and to ask the government to help avert what could become a national emergency. We want to impress upon the public the possible consequences—safety, medical, personal, and economic issues of having a population that is not adequately protected against measles, whooping cough, meningitis, and many other diseases."

Dr. Jenkins stressed that our current vaccines, and those that may be developed in the future, provide an important safety net to protect against these consequences.

See I-TRENDS page 2

These software companies have created data upload capabilities between Florida SHOTS and their EMR, practice management, or billing software. We appreciate their partnership!



Florida Shots™
CERTIFIED PROVIDER

- Allscripts
- Athena Health
- Automated Medical Systems
- AutoMedicWorks
- CollaborateMD/Claimgear
- Doc-tor.com
- eClinicalWorks
- Electronic Healthcare Systems (EHS)
- e-MDs
- EncounterPRO (JMJ Technologies)
- i2i Systems
- IOS Solutions
- MDFlow Systems
- Medappz
- Medicat
- MediTab
- Misys
- NCG Medical (Perfect Care)
- NextGen
- Office Practicum
- Practice Partner—McKesson
- Sage
- Sevocity
- SynaMed
- TriMed Technologies (Expert Practice Manager)
- VacTrack
- VipaHealth Solutions (SmartEMR)
- Visionary
- Amazing Charts*
- Doctors Access*
- edgeMED*
- EMRgence*
- GE Medical*
- Greenway Medical Technologies*
- MediNotes/Clinician* (formerly bond Clinician)
- medisoft*
- Pulse Systems*
- Workflow*

*in development

For more information about how you can participate, please call the Florida SHOTS enrollment desk at

(877) 888-SHOT

Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719
FAX (850) 922-4195
E-MAIL flshots@DOH.state.fl.us
www.flshots.com



Bureau of
Immunization

I-TRENDS from page 1

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that 2007 immunization rates were adequate, recent data show that approximately one-fourth of toddlers are not properly immunized. Recent outbreaks of measles in several cities, the worst in a decade, are just one example of how the decision not to vaccinate can affect individual children and the public's health. Most cases have been among the unvaccinated.

The Alliance says many young parents have never seen these diseases, so they question the need for the vaccines. Pediatricians are hearing from parents who fear that their children are receiving too many vaccines, and recent inaccurate media reports have helped to fuel their concerns. The group emphasizes that if children are not immunized, there could be

Florida SHOTS™ safeguards immunization records and prevents repeat vaccinations.

epidemics of many diseases that cause loss of life, or in many cases, severe loss of quality of life due to mental retardation, blindness, amputation and other serious consequences.

"If immunization levels decline, epidemics are not out of the question," said Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E), executive director of the American Public Health Association. According to the Alliance, if a single disease reaches epidemic levels, communities and families will

suffer in terms of demands on our health care system, lost productivity and wages, missed school time, and serious health effects.

"Children are particularly vulnerable," said Dr. Jenkins, which is why experts have recommended that specific vaccines be given during infancy and early childhood. "Childhood vaccines are vital to growing up healthy," she said.

Ardis Hoven, MD, infectious disease specialist and Board member of the American Medical Association, said, "Vaccines are one of the best public health accomplishments of all time and have proven time and time again their ability to keep horrific diseases at bay. Because of vaccines, many diseases have been eliminated in the United States, but are still active in other

countries and could rebound here. The ongoing measles outbreaks in several states are testimony that those who forgo vaccinations are vulnerable to infection from imported disease, and can pose a significant health risk for their communities."

Additional information about the importance of vaccines is available from the CDC at www.cdc.gov. To learn more about how Florida SHOTS safeguards immunization records and prevents repeat vaccinations, visit www.flshots.com or call 877-888-SHOT (7468), Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Eastern.

You Said It

It's always nice to know what others who are enrolled in Florida SHOTS have to say about the program. So each issue we'll share with you what some of our top users think about the registry. This feature interview was conducted with Dawn Southwick, Practice Manager, Pediatric Associates of Sarasota.

What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your office?

It's user friendly. We started with Florida SHOTS two months ago and love it. We have entered over half of our patients' records. It is not at all time consuming.

What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your patients?

Accessibility. It is so much easier to generate forms, and the printed forms are so much clearer than handwritten forms. For patients that transfer here, we don't have to track down their records. Most of the doctors in town are enrolled in Florida SHOTS so we can easily access their records.

If another doctor's office were to call and ask you whether they should enroll in the registry, what would you say?

We 110% support Florida SHOTS. It is user friendly, easily accessible and keeps all records up to date with reminders of what patients are due for or have missed vaccinations. It serves as another form of record storage for us.

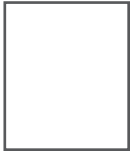
Did You Know?

Florida SHOTS Field Representative Dianna Gosendi is now working with health-care providers throughout Florida. If your office needs assistance with an enrollment appointment or a demonstration, you can reach Dianna directly at 904-248-9370. For general information or assistance with Florida SHOTS, call our help desk at 877-888-SHOT (7468). We're available Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Eastern.

Tech Tips

Q: I've noticed that the number of account users listed for my office has significantly decreased, but I haven't changed anything. There are a couple of doctors here who don't use the system, but I need their names listed for electronically certifying the 680 forms. What should I do?

A: As a security measure, a recent system update placed end dates on users that had not been logged into the system in at least 90 days. If a name from your office was inactivated, but you still need access to it (e.g., the doctors you mentioned whose names are used to certify 680s) or the user needs to use the system again, you can reactivate them. The personnel list is now divided into "Active," "Inactive," and "All." To return a personnel record to the "Active" page, their end date must be removed or be a future date. **If the person does not use the system (e.g., a doctor or nurse, whose name is used only on vaccinations given or to certify a 680), the "System User" checkbox should not be checked.**



The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to all of the new practices that have recently enrolled. In this issue we are highlighting another long-term member of Florida SHOTS who is a new MDFlow Systems data upload participant. Dr. Sonia Sibaja of Pediatrics and Family Medicine in Miami recently shared with us about her experience with data upload.

“Our Florida SHOTS representative introduced us to the data upload program. It is super important for pediatricians to upload vaccination records so we were eager to try data upload.

The process was a little difficult at first, but with some training it became much simpler. We use MDFlow Systems, and it is now so easy for us to input our records and look up new patients coming into our office.”

MDFlow Systems Users:

MDFlow Systems is an Internet-based electronic medical records (EMR) and patient care workflow management system, which allows health-care providers to access patient's medical information via secured Internet connection at any time or place. If your office uses MDFlow Systems software, you can implement data upload. Here's how:

1. Call MDFlow Systems at 305-648-0028 and ask

them to enable the Florida SHOTS interface.

2. Contact Holly Graff, Florida SHOTS Implementation Specialist at 904-755-5167 or Holly_Graff@doh.state.fl.us in order to complete the forms to receive a secure ftp site from Florida SHOTS.

Immunization data is automatically sent from MDFlow Systems and uploaded daily to Florida SHOTS.

Upload Update

20.6 M

We've topped 20.6 million shot records that have been added to the registry via data upload, a process that exports immunization information from current electronic files and transfers it for import into the Florida SHOTS registry.

Interested in learning more about how your practice management or EMR software could be set up to upload shot data to the registry? Check out page 1 of the newsletter to see which software companies are currently participating, or call 877-888-SHOT for more information.

Top 10 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 10 by Daily Usage" chart as of November 7, 2008. Thank you for your support of the registry!

Traditional Partners:

1. Pediatric Associates of Sarasota
2. Pediatric Professional Associates: Miami
3. Lakeside Pediatrics: Lakeland
4. Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida: Ft. Myers
5. Bayside Pediatrics, Inc.: Tampa

Upload Partners:

1. Minute Clinic: Locations statewide
2. Florida Community Health Centers: West Palm Beach
3. Physician Associates of Florida: Longwood
4. Pediatric Associates, PA: Lauderdale Lakes
5. Florida Medical Clinic, PA: Zephyrhills

YES, please contact me to schedule a visit with a regional coordinator to enroll in Florida SHOTS.

Sign me up for electronic copies of *SHOTS Tracker*.

EMAIL 1: _____

EMAIL 2: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

OFFICE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

COUNTY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

NL:V4:I6

How Do I Enroll in Florida SHOTS?

SIGN UP TODAY!

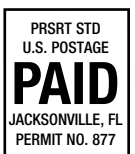
Fill out this information card and mail it back to us. Please include proper postage.

Call **(877) 888-SHOT**, or send an email to the help desk at flshots@doh.state.fl.us if you need more information.

So many enrollment options... and they're all FREE!



The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719



Now Available Online:

Easy Enrollment Form

www.flshots.com

Florida SHOTS Enrollment: Fast. Easy. Free.

Florida SHOTS (*State Health Online Tracking System*) is a free, statewide, centralized electronic immunization registry that helps health-care providers and parents keep track of immunization records. Enroll today at www.flshots.com.

E-Tracker

To receive this newsletter via email as well as regular mail, please fill out and return the tear-off card included in this newsletter. Include as many email addresses as you would like to receive the newsletter.

