Immunization Data and Resources

The Vaccine Preventable Disease Program works to reduce and eliminate the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases affecting children, adolescents, and older adults by raising the immunization coverage rates of New Jersey citizens. The New Jersey Department of Health uses various data sources to assess immunization coverage, which in turn, helps to prioritize program planning. Please see the following links for current vaccination coverage data:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention VaxView website provides vaccination coverage rates to assess how well local areas, states, and the nation are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Data are available for vaccines routinely recommended for children, adolescents, and adults. For specific coverage reports, visit https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vaxview/index.html.

As a healthcare professional, your strong recommendation is a critical

Save the Date!

Virtual New Jersey Immunization Conference
May 25, 2022

Stay tuned for updates at https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/
The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service includes:
Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP): 609-826-5964
Regional Epidemiology Program (REP): 609-826-5964
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP): 609-826-4860

We’re on the Web!
www.nj.gov/health/cd

Past issues of the New Jersey Communi-CABLE are available online at:
http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/pub/

New Jersey Department of Health
(NJDOH) Communicable Disease Service (CDS) Project Firstline Team (PFL) was active during the summer and fall months meeting key benchmarks in the development and rollout of Project Firstline, an infection prevention and control (IPC) training collaborative developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for all frontline healthcare workers throughout the state. In September 2021, NJDOH CDS PFL Team submitted the findings of their Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) to the CDC and are pleased to report a total of 1,105 healthcare and public health workers completed the assessment. The purpose of the LNA was to assess current educational needs and gaps in infection prevention and control among frontline healthcare and public health workers and to provide quality, accessible, and culturally competent education to meet those needs. We are still collecting responses on a rolling basis to assess IPC educational needs and trends over time. To complete the LNA, click here.

In October 2021, NJDOH CDS PFL Team coordinated its first two IPC trainings. Staff trained students at the Salem and Cumberland County Vocational and Technical Schools studying to become certified nursing assistants (CNA). A total of 29 students and CNA course instructors attended the virtual training which covered multiple IPC topics such as standard precautions of care, multi-dose vaccine vial basics, and COVID-19 and virus transmission basics. Staff were also invited to present at the Home Care and Hospice Association of NJ Annual Conference where they provided IPC education to 28 home healthcare workers.

Continued on page 10
The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) remains committed to the reduction of antimicrobial resistance through stewardship practices in healthcare settings. For the past three years, healthcare facilities have had the opportunity to demonstrate their dedication to stewardship by submitting applications for the Antimicrobial Resistance Recognition Program (ASRP).

Modeled on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship, the ASRP offers healthcare facilities an opportunity to submit and share their current efforts. Facilities are required to submit documentation as proof that they meet or exceed the core standards which is then reviewed by NJDOH program staff. In addition to recognizing the achievements of awardees, the program is also intended to encourage facilities to enhance existing programs and influence facilities to develop robust stewardship programs if they are lacking. The ASRP ultimately seeks to better preserve the power of antimicrobial drugs and prevent the spread of antimicrobial germs.

The 2021 winners were announced during the annual antimicrobial resistance conference sponsored jointly between the New Jersey Hospital Association and the New Jersey Department of Health. The conference was held virtually on December 9, 2021 and featured Lauri Hicks, DO, Director, Office of Antibiotic Stewardship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Hicks shared important information about how the COVID-19...
CDS recently launched a Traveler’s Health website as part of a new traveler’s health initiative! It’s a great resource for staying up to date on travel into and out of the great state of New Jersey. Recommendations and guidelines for domestic, international, cruise, and air travel are included in addition to information for how to securely store your vaccination history for easy access. The website currently emphasizes COVID-19, but may expand to other travel-related topics in the future.

Did you know that regardless of vaccination status, masks must be worn by all travelers while on all forms of public transportation and at transportation hubs? This reminder, as well as others, can be found on the site. Useful resources such as destination checkers to facilitate informed travel are also linked for easy access. Additionally, infographics that organizations and institutes of higher education are able to use and share on their websites and social media platforms are included. The website contains a section for students and faculty and will provide information on safe travel during breaks. Resources for international students who may not be familiar with New Jersey are provided as are useful tips for students planning to study abroad. See the “Traveling Tips” sample graphic that will be available for use. The site will be updated regularly as guidelines change and will include seasonal messaging. Be sure to visit the webpage located at https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/travel.shtml and spread the word!
pandemic is impacting antibiotic prescribing and antibiotic resistance, a very timely topic.

Facilities were awarded with a gold, silver, or bronze recognition level based upon whether they perform tasks that tackle the seven core elements: Hospital Leadership Commitment, Accountability, Pharmacy Expertise, Action, Tracking, Reporting, and Education. The ASRP enables NJDOH to both promote antimicrobial stewardship best practices to prevent development of drug-resistance and collect more detailed information on antimicrobial stewardship and resistance to guide future initiatives.

**The winners of the 2021 ASRP are:**

**Gold Acute Care**
- Bayonne Medical Center
- Bayshore Medical Center
- CentraState Medical Center
- Chilton Medical Center, Atlantic Health System
- Clara Maass Medical Center
- Cooper University Health Care
- Hackensack Meridian Ocean Medical Center
- Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center
- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
- Hackettstown Medical Center
- Hunterdon Medical Center

**Gold Post Acute Care**
- Inspira Medical Center Elmer
- Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill
- Inspira Medical Center Vineland
- Jefferson Health - Cherry Hill Hospital
- Jefferson Health - Stratford Hospital
- Jefferson Health - Washington Township Hospital
- Jersey Shore University Medical Center
- JFK Medical Center
- Monmouth Medical Center
- Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus
- Morristown Medical Center - Atlantic Health System
- Newton Medical Center
- Overlook Medical Center
- Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center
- Saint Mary's General Hospital
- Southern Ocean Medical Center
- St. Joseph's University Medical Center
- St. Joseph's Wayne Medical Center

**Silver Acute Care**
- AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
- Bergen New Bridge Medical Center - Acute Care
- Cape Regional Medical Center
- Deborah Heart and Lung Center
- East Orange General Hospital

Continued on page 6
Antimicrobial Stewardship, continued from page 5

Hackensack Meridian Mountainside Medical Center
Holy Name Medical Center
Jersey City Medical Center
Riverview Medical Center
Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Saint Clare's Health - Dover Hospital
Saint Michael's Medical Center
Salem Medical Center
Shore Medical Center
Trinitas Regional Medical Center
University Hospital

Silver Post Acute Care
AristaCare at Delaire
CareOne at East Brunswick
Christian Health Care Center
Parker at Somerset
Virtua Health & Rehabilitation Center at Berlin
Virtua Health and Rehabilitation at Mt. Holly

Bronze Acute Care
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation Saddle Brook
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation West Orange campus
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation Chester Campus
Pascack Valley Medical Center

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset
RWJBH Hamilton
RWJBH University Hospital Rahway

Bronze Post Acute Care
Care One at Cresskill
CareOne at Teaneck
CareOne at Valley
Christian Health Care Center: Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital
Complete Care Woodlands
Heath Village
Job Haines
Kindred Hospital - Morris County
Kindred Hospital - Rahway
Kindred Hospital East
Roosevelt Care Center Edison
Spring Hills Post Acute Wayne
The Manor Health and Rehabilitation Center.
Essex County Hospital Center - Behavioral Healthcare Facility
The Dwelling Place at St Clare’s

Outpatient General Award
CompleteCare Health Network
New Lyme Disease Trainings Available!

The CDC has released new clinician training modules for Lyme disease. This four-part series aids front-line healthcare providers with recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease. The free online curriculum serves as a valuable resource for primary care clinicians, public health professionals, pharmacists, and health educators who encounter patients with Lyme disease.

Free Continuing Education credits available: CME, CNE, CPE, CHES, CPH

To register, please go to CDC TRAIN or click the links below.

Click here for instructions on how to obtain CE credits.

Module 1:
Introduction to Tickborne Diseases and Disease Prevention (WB4328)

Module 2:
Lyme Disease Clinical Overview (WB4329)

Module 3:
Lyme Disease Testing and Diagnosis (WB4330)

Module 4:
Lyme Disease Treatment and Management (WB4380)

For NJ Public Health CEs:
Register on NJLMN, complete the CDC module(s), then e-mail your certificate(s) of completion.

Links to the training modules and more information are available on the NJDOH CDS Lyme disease page and Vector-borne disease page.
factor in whether your patients get routine and COVID-19 vaccinations. Your ability to answer common questions, to address vaccine misinformation, and to create a culture of immunization can all increase the likelihood of increasing vaccination acceptance. For provider tools and resources, please visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/communications/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/pediatrician.html

Immunization Data, continued from page 1

2021 CDRSS Case Close-Out Instructions and Guidance

All local public health agencies (local health departments and regional health commissions) are required to complete their 2021 cases by Thursday March 31, 2022.

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will approve cases by Saturday April 30, 2022.

The 2021 MMWR year extends from January 3, 2021 to January 1, 2022.

Additional instructions will be provided in CDRSS.
The COVID-19 pandemic has focused attention on communicable diseases in school settings to a greater degree than at any other time in recent history.

In order to support our local health departments (LHDs), public health partners, parents, and schools during this pandemic, the Communicable Disease Service (CDS) has created a new team of epidemiologists and nursing consultants called the DSH team. The main mission of the DSH team (Daycares, Schools and Institutes of Higher Education) is to prioritize collaboration, education, and training that strengthens public health response and minimizes infectious disease transmission in these settings. Working hand in hand with the Regional Epidemiology Program, CDS’s team of school subject matter experts, LHDs, and our partners in these institutions, each region of the State will have one epidemiologist and one nursing consultant dedicated to reducing communicable disease transmission within the schools and childcare centers of that region.

With the start of the new school year, the DSH team has begun to pilot their activity in the northern part of the State. Introductory meetings with local health departments are ongoing. These meetings have resulted in many productive conversations regarding how this new team can best support the LHDs and schools in the region. A needs assessment tool was distributed to approximately 650 childcare centers to solicit requests for tailored trainings from these facilities, which often do not have a nurse or other healthcare provider on staff. The DSH team will provide training, education, resources and support to childcare facilities to be better prepared in preventing and responding to outbreaks of COVID-19 and other communicable disease.

Ultimately, the goal of the DSH team is to assist and facilitate wherever possible with regard to infectious disease in the wider school ecosystem; to serve as that “extra pair of hands” for CDS, local health partners, and schools. Look out for the DSH team in your region over the coming weeks and months!
Project Firstline, continued from page 2

Healthcare facilities who are interested in scheduling IPC training for their staff can complete our online intake form by clicking here. Currently, we are offering training and educational tools on the following topics:
1. Hand Hygiene
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
3. Cleaning and Disinfection
4. Multi-dose Vial Vaccine Basics
5. The Basics of COVID-19, Virus Transmission, and Virus Variants
6. Basic IPC Practices for Students and New Professionals

In addition to the trainings offered by CDS PFL Team, NJDOH awarded $801,200 in infection control funding to support IPC education among healthcare personnel to the New Jersey Hospital Association, Healthcare Association of New Jersey, Rutgers Project ECHO, and the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials. The awarded funding was part of a competitive process in which applicants applied for a range of funding by submitting tentative project plans that were systematically reviewed for their educational content and delivery, target audiences and communication plans. CDS received funding from CDC’s Project Firstline and ELC Enhancing Detection to build infection prevention capacity throughout the state.

Lastly, healthcare professionals seeking CMEs, CNEs, and CPEs can now “learn and earn” with CDC PFL through their Training and Continuing Education Online (TCEO) System. For convenient access to all self-paced trainings, visit the NJDOH PFL website by clicking here.

NJDOH PFL is also on social media! To like and share our content with your networks, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

For more information about IPC training offerings, scheduling a training, or partnering with us, please call 609-826-5964, e-mail us at CDS.IC.PFL@doh.nj.gov.
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)
TIP OF THE WEEK

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR WEEKLY TIPS ON ALL NJ DOH SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!