

Hamilton County General Health District E-news for School Nurses

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*** **'Stomach flu' aka Norovirus:** Has your school been experiencing a lot of 'stomach flu'. You probably heard in the news about the outbreak in a retirement home. Why aka Norovirus? What is Norovirus? Norovirus used to be called Norwalk virus. Remember the outbreaks of gastroenteritis on cruise ships? That's the one. You will find lots of information about the Norovirus on our web site www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org. There is a 'Know the Facts'. Also there are some great resources on cleaning the environment when Norovirus occurs, some class exclusion suggestions and more. All items on our web site are reproducible. Feel free to use the entire document or pieces of in your newsletters, parent letters etc.

*** **Know Your ABCs:** The 'Know your ABCs' is here as a reminder that Class C Diseases are reportable. The document reads: "report an outbreak, unusual incidence or epidemic ...". Specifically, "Outbreak, unusual incidence, or epidemic of other infectious diseases of known etiology not categorized as Class A, Class B or Class C" are reportable. This would include a high number of children or staff calling in absent due to "the stomach flu". Please report this kind of disease activity to Judith Beiting 946-7887 or Lisa Craig 946-7849, communicable disease investigators. Both ladies will investigate the outbreak and provide helpful information. You can find a current copy of "Know your ABCs" on our website www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org. Click on the letter C then communicable diseases. Then click on "List of Reportable Diseases". If you can not find it let me know and we'll get one to you. Please provide your fax number for quicker delivery.

*** **Adolescent Immunizations:** Despite preparations for Kindergarten Round-ups do not forget the middle and high school students. They need to get vaccinations too. The 2008 chart of recommended vaccinations for children 11 to 18 years of age can be found at www.cdc.gov/nip. Meningococcal vaccine is recommended for this age group. As you know, meningococcal disease is a rare, but dangerous, bacterial infection that poses a serious threat to teenagers – disease rates begin rising again after childhood, peaking in adolescents and young adults 15 to 24 years of age. The disease develops rapidly – meningococcal disease can kill an otherwise healthy young person in 48 hours or less. According to recent data, death rates are up to 5 times higher among 15 – 24 year olds, compared with younger populations. Up to 1 in 5 survivors of meningococcal disease can suffer from lifelong complications, including loss of limbs, scarring, hearing loss and neurologic damage.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also recommends that adolescents 11 – 18 years of age receive a single booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of tetanus/diphtheria (Td) for further protection against pertussis. What a great opportunity for the students to get protected from vaccine preventable diseases. Don't forget the hepatitis B vaccine too.

Don't forget the staff. Have you read the newspaper articles about how under immunized adults are? When was your last Tetanus & Diphtheria booster? Have you received the Tdap vaccine? How many of the school staff have received two doses of MMR? Two cases of R/O mumps were reported and investigated. There have been mumps outbreaks in other areas of the country and Canada. Those who have not received 2 MMRs or had disease should be

vaccinated. Call Kathy Tucker, BSN, RN, Immunization nurse at 513.946-7884 for more information.

***** Flu Shots:** While we are talking vaccines it's not too late to get a flu shot. Did you get yours? Since the end of January there has been an increase in influenza like illness. It is not too late for the students, parents and school staff to get a flu shot. There is plenty of vaccine. Some providers have cut the price for a flu shot.

***** 2008 School Year Vaccination Requirements:** The 2008 table of immunization requirements for pre-schools, day cares and schools have been published. Dorothy Bystrom sent a copy to all school nurses on her distribution list. If you have not received one, let me know and we'll fax you a copy. The polio requirement for Schools lists the following:

K-12: 4 doses if a combination of OPV or IPV was administered.
4 doses of all OPV or all IPV is required if the third dose of either vaccine was administered prior to the 4th birthday.

Students who receive their 3rd dose of OPV or IPV after their fourth birthday **do not** get a fourth dose of polio vaccine. The 3rd dose after age 4 years is the standard ACIP recommendation. A copy of the 2008 school year immunization requirements chart can be found on our web site www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org. Questions? Please call Kathy Tucker, Immunization nurse at 513.946.7884 or me, Mary Sacco, Director of Nursing at 513.946.7881.

*****Students with Special Health Care Needs:** Are there children with special health care needs in your school whose family is having a hard time paying for their medical care? If so contact the Health District and a Public Health Nurse will work with the family to have the child enrolled in BCMH (Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps). BCMH is a federal, state and locally funded program that helps children get the medical care they need for their condition. Call the Nursing Division at 946-7881 if we can help.

*****Toy Recalls:** Thought these might be of interest especially since the younger age group will bring toys in for 'Show and Tell' or reading times. The list is attached or you can find it on our web site www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org . Call for a faxed copy if you need one.

*****Important Contact Numbers for Schools:**

Division of Epidemiology and Assessment.....513-946-7923 p
Communicable Disease Nurse513-946-7887 p; 513-946-7930 f
Division of Nursing (public health nurse referrals, immunizations . . .513-946-7882 p
Childcare Health Consultant.....513-946-7903 p
Division of Health Promotion and Education.....513-946-7802 p
Tobacco Prevention, Cessation and Tobacco-Free Schools ...513-946-7810 p
School Wellness Policies And Coordinated School Health.13-946-7845 p
Motor Vehicle Safety.....513-946-7807 p
Division of Environmental Health (Playgrounds, Cafeteria, School Environment inspections).....513-946-7832 p

Keep those hands washed and stay healthy!

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Prevent Promote Protect