

# *Hamilton County General Health District E-news for School Nurses*

Volume 7 Issue 1      October 1, 2007

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**\*\*\* Name Change/Redesigned Web Page:** The Hamilton County General Health District is changing its name to Hamilton County Public Health. The agency's web site has been redesigned but can still be found at [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org). Lots of good changes – font size can be customized, an A to Z index, brighter background cover and so on. Lots of good resources. Take a look; let me know what you think good and not so good.

**\*\*\* Water Play/Shigellosis:** The area is still experiencing a Shigellosis outbreak and Cryptosporidiosis has been added. 'Crypto' is transmitted via the fecal-oral route, including person-to-person, animal-to-person, waterborne and foodborne (including raw milk and unpasteurized cider) transmission. Crypto causes persistent, watery diarrhea which may contain mucus. Dehydration is the primary concern. It would be prudent so as to keep students in school to eliminate all "water play" until the outbreak is over. Thorough handwashing is the primary means of prevention. The Health District Epidemiologist will notify us when the number of cases returns to the expected. More information about "Crypto" and other reportable communicable diseases can be found at [www.odh.ohio.gov/healthresources/infectiousdiseasemanual.apx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthresources/infectiousdiseasemanual.apx). Please call Judith Beiting, RN (513)946-7887 or Lisa Craig (513)946-7849 to report local reportable communicable diseases. The list of reportable communicable disease can be found at [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.com) in the Community Health Services area.

**\*\*\* Required School Immunizations/Perpetual Calendar:** Here are some tips for evaluating incoming student's immunization records. It requires knowing the student's birthday and a calendar. (Did you know the Cincinnati Bell Yellow pages publish a perpetual calendar? See page 26.) Okay, here goes: Kindergarten

DTaP – 5 doses unless dose # 4 received after child was 4 years of age. Also there needs to be 6 months between dose #3 and dose #4 or the fourth one does not count.

Polio – 4 doses especially if # 3 received before child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

MMR – 2 doses. # 1 received after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. # 2 received at least 28 days after # 1. A 4 day grace period is okay for dose # 1 but not dose # 2.

Hep B (K to 8) – 3 doses. Dose # 2 must be at least 28 days after dose # 1. (Use the calendar.) Dose # 3 must be at least 8 weeks after dose # 2 **and** the child **must** be 6 months of age. If received before 6 months of age dose # 3 does not count.

Varicella (K – 1) – 1 dose on or after the first birthday (**NO** 4 day grace period!)

Grades 1 – 12

DTaP - 3 to 4 doses

Polio – 3 doses

MMR – 2 doses (see above for caveats)

Hep B (9 to 12) – not required but strongly recommended.

Varicella (2 to 12) – not required.

Confusing we know. Hope this helps. Please call our immunization specialist Kathy Tucker, RN at (513)946-7884 or Mary Sacco, MSN, RN at (513) 946-7881 for assistance as needed. Please

send the Health District a copy of the Ohio Department of Health's report on the status of immunizations in your school.

**\*\*\* Immunization Clinic:** We appreciate the school nurses sending students in need of vaccines to keep them in school to the Health District's immunization clinics. We need your help. Please send a copy of the child's immunization record with them to the clinic. We've had some children that present at clinic with a document claiming to need x, y, z vaccines and then school calls wanting to know why a, b, c was not given. Having the student's complete record at clinic will help to prevent a delay in getting the student appropriately immunized. Thank you.

**\*\*\* Flu Shots/931-SHOT:** Yup, it's that time of year. Flu season is just around the corner. What we hear so far is that flu vaccine production is going well. The country should have plenty of vaccine for all who wish to receive it. Influenza vaccine information statements which describes who should be vaccinated, the vaccine components, timing for vaccination, risks and reactions. Copies of the Influenza Vaccine Information Statement are available on [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org). Please call us if you have any questions about the flu vaccine. Remember prevention is key – Cover your Cough, wash those hands and keep your hands away from your face.

**\*\*\* Mercury Disposal:** Does your school still have BP cuffs that contain Mercury? Any mercury thermometers? Did you know the Health District will help you dispose of elemental and mercury containing equipment safely? The mercury containing items need to be collected, double bagged in plastic bags and placed inside a hard side plastic bucket. Once this is done call Chuck DeJonckheere, Director of Waste Management, 946-7875.

**\*\*\*Ohio Department of Health School Nurse resource:** Do you have an email address? If so two distribution lists to get on. One belongs to Dorothy Bystrom, RN, M.Ed., NCSN; School Nurse Consultant; Supervisor, School Nursing Program; Ohio Department of Health; 614.644.6983; 614-644-9850 (FAX); [dorothy.bystrom@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:dorothy.bystrom@odh.ohio.gov). The other one is the Health District's. Send an email to [mary.sacco@hamilton-co.org](mailto:mary.sacco@hamilton-co.org) to receive the Health District's School Nurse enews. Both are great resources (if I may say so myself ;).

**\*\*\*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.

### **\*\*\*Training:**

Hamilton County 100% Tobacco Free Schools Workshop

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Bankers Club, Fifth Third Bank Tower

511 Walnut Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Registration begins at 7:30a.m

Panel Discussion 8-10am

Registration is FREE, but an RSVP is required due to limited space. Breakfast will be provided

Deadline for Registration: September 26, 2007

To Register:

Email: [megan.cermak@hamilton-co.org](mailto:megan.cermak@hamilton-co.org)

Phone 513.946.7926

Workshop Goal: To examine how school leaders have approached policy and system changes that result in a tobacco-free environment for their district and how this has provided an optimal learning environment for students.

Session Topics: 100% Tobacco Free School. Prohibiting students from smoking on campus does not mean your school district is 100% tobacco-free. A comprehensive policy prohibits faculty, staff, students, and visitors from smoking anywhere on school grounds at any time. If you feel your school district needs a comprehensive policy, then this workshop is perfect for you.

Technical support and grant opportunities will be announced by the Hamilton County General Health District staff.

Application has been submitted for continuing education hours for nurses through OBN Approver Unit at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing (OBN-011-93). Please contact Developmental Affairs at 513/558-5311 regarding approval status.

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

Division of Epidemiology and Assessment.....513-946-7923 p

Communicable Disease Nurse .....513-946-7887 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

\*\*\* It is our goal to keep information flowing to you so as to help keep the students, staff and families in your charge as healthy as they can be. Please call us if we can be of assistance. And of course let me know your thoughts about the newsletter.

Keep those hands washed and stay healthy!

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[www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org)

Prevent Promote Protect