

American Academy of Pediatrics



Happy Holidays!

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year!

The Iron Lung

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How blessed we are to have access to safe vaccines? During the Idaho Immunization Coalition Summit I had the privilege to experience briefly the Iron Lung. Let's bear in mind I chose to go in and new my friend Buck would be quick to release me from the chamber if needed. I inhaled the first breath as the lung was exhaling for me and a bit of panic set in as my chest expansion was quickly halted by the lung. A few more breaths and I was in sync and it was less worrisome. A patient suffering polio disease would have to be in the lung 2 – 20 hrs per day and sometimes continuously to support their respiratory function. The Iron Lung is now an icon of a time when vaccines were not readily available to protect from the disease of Polio. I again say how blessed we are. I cannot imagine spending much more time than my 6 or so minutes in the lung. I thank the Canyon Area Immunization and Buck for the eye opening opportunity. It reminds me that when there is not a vaccine there is high fear of the disease. Once a vaccine gets released the vaccine is well accepted secondary to fear of the disease. Though at the same time there are some side effects typically mild and as the incidence of disease approaches the incidence of the side effects, the vaccine is feared more than the disease and we stop vaccinating as widely. This results in resurgence of the disease until fear of the disease returns and prompt vaccination again. Let us not forget our patients, family and friends who suffered from polio and faced the Iron Lung not by choice but to survive. Further let us redouble our efforts to vaccinate our patients to protect them from the vaccine preventable disease we can.



FDA approves 9-valent HPV vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new vaccine that can prevent diseases caused by nine types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

Gardasil 9 (human papillomavirus 9-valent vaccine, recombinant) covers five more HPV types than predecessor Gardasil, both manufactured by Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., subsidiary of Merck & Co.

Gardasil 9 — approved for females ages 9 through 26 and males ages 9 through 15 — can prevent cervical, vulvar, vaginal and anal cancers caused by HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, and genital warts caused by HPV types 6 or 11. It adds protection against five additional HPV types — 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58 — which cause about 20% of cervical cancers and are not covered by previously FDA-approved HPV vaccines.

The bivalent HPV vaccine Cervarix (GlaxoSmithKline) protects against HPV types 16 and 18.

Gardasil 9 is administered as three separate injections. After the initial injection, the second and third dose follow two and six months later. The safety of Gardasil 9 was evaluated in 13,000 males and females, with the most common adverse reactions being injection site pain, swelling, redness and headache, according to the FDA.

A randomized, controlled clinical study was conducted in the United States and internationally in about 14,000 females ages 16 through 26 who tested negative for vaccine HPV types at the start of the study. Participants received either Gardasil or Gardasil 9. Gardasil 9 was found to be 97% effective in preventing cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancers caused by the five additional HPV types (31, 33, 45, 52 and 58).

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American Academy of Pediatrics: What's the latest with the Flu in 2014

Flu activity <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm> is increasing in the United States. Five pediatric deaths have been reported so far this season, with influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B viruses being identified most commonly in the United States. The CDC has reported that 52% of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses collected and analyzed in the United States from October 1 through November 22, 2014 were antigenically different (drifted) from the H3N2 virus strain in the vaccine. When predominant circulating influenza viruses drift, there is the potential for decreased vaccine effectiveness against that drifted strain. This finding highlights the importance of influenza antiviral treatment as a valuable second line of defense for children with influenza. For more information, see the **CDC HAN Health Alert Network** <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00374.asp> message and the **AAP Latest News** article <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/12/05/aapnews.20141205-1>.

National Influenza Vaccination Week <http://www2.aap.org/immunization/about/nivw.html> (NIVW) is taking place December 7-13, 2014. Vaccination remains the most important step in protecting against influenza. With flu activity increasing and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get your flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones. As a reminder, it takes about two weeks after vaccination for the body to develop full protective immunity.

New data <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/11/06/aapnews.20141106-1> show that the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) was not effective against the influenza A H1N1 pandemic virus when compared with inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) in children 2 through 8 years of age. This data is contrary to earlier studies suggesting that LAIV has superior efficacy in children ages 2 years through 8 years. This, however, does not change the AAP's recommendation that all children 6 months and older, who are eligible for influenza vaccination, should be immunized against influenza as soon as possible. Remember that 80% of all influenza illness generally occurs in January, February, and March each year.

Also, be sure to check out the new **2014-2015 AAP Online Flu Courses** <http://pedialink.aap.org/visitor> "Influenza Office Testing and Vaccinating Egg-Allergic Children" and "Prevention and Control of Influenza: 2014-2015". These courses deliver valuable information for clinicians to help keep children healthy during this flu season. Each online course brings you up to date in less than an hour and qualifies for *American Medical Association (AMA) Physician's Recognition Award (PRA) Category 1 Credit(s)TM*.

For more detailed influenza information, see the **AAP Red Book Online Influenza Resource page** <http://redbook.solutions.aap.org/ss/influenza-resources.aspx> or the **CDC FluView** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>. All What's the Latest with the Flu messages will be **archived** www.aap.org/disasters/flu.

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In addition, Gardasil 9 was found to be as effective as Gardasil for the prevention of diseases caused by the four shared HPV types (6, 11, 16 and 18) based on similar antibody responses in participants in clinical studies.

Recommendations for use of the vaccine will be considered at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting Feb. 25-26. AAP policy consideration generally follows.

Meanwhile, the quadrivalent and bivalent vaccines will remain on the market and should continue to be used, according to the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases. Both vaccines protect against types 16 and 18, which cause 70% of cervical and oropharyngeal cancers.

For more resources visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/youarethekey.

Congratulations Dr Womack

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Early Childhood, we would like to congratulate you on being selected to receive the 2014 Dr Susan Aronson Award! The Dr. Susan Aronson Award, established in 2004, is presented to a health care professional who has made a significant contribution to improving the health and safety of children in early education and child care settings.

Thank you for all you do!