



## September 2018 E-Newsletter



Get Immunized, Idaho

# ACTION NEEDED

### THE ISSUE

IDAHO'S TEENAGERS  
VACCINATED AGAINST  
MENINGITIS ARE STILL AT  
RISK OF CONTRACTING THE  
DISEASE

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

SUPPORT THE NEW RULE  
REQUIRING A SECOND DOSE  
OF THE MENINGITIS VACCINE  
THAT WILL HELP PROTECT  
TEENS:

**WRITE AN EMAIL**  
**TESTIFY IN PERSON**



### WRITE AN EMAIL

RAFE HEWETT  
PROGRAM MANAGER,  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM,  
IDAHO DEPT. OF HEALTH & WELFARE

RAFE.HEWETT@DHW.IDAHO.GOV

Emails are due on or before Sept. 26. For  
sample letters scroll down.



### TESTIFY IN PERSON

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD:

**MONDAY, SEPT. 17**  
**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT**  
**1789 S. EAGLE ROAD**  
**MERIDIAN, IDAHO**  
**9:30 AM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KAREN SHARPNACK  
KJS@IDAHOIMMUNE.ORG or CALL 208-961-1514

GETIMMUNIZEDIDAHO.ORG

# SAMPLE LETTERS

Dear Mr. Hewett,

Requiring a booster shot for the meningococcal conjugate vaccine could prevent the harmful effects of meningitis. One in 10 people infected with meningococcal disease will die, while one in five survivors will suffer long-term disability, such as loss of limbs, brain damage, deafness and nervous system problems.

Please continue to support the health and safety of Idaho families by following the recommendations of the CDC and require a second dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to 12th grade entry.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. Hewett,

Please support updating Idaho's rules to match the CDC's recommendation to require a second dose of the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Idaho's teens before 12th grade.

Meningitis can be fatal or cause disability, sometimes within 24 hours. Youth are at increased risk due to close contact with each other. It is imperative to protect our young people as they enter a new chapter in their lives.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. Hewett,

I strongly support the proposed meningococcal vaccine booster requirement for students before entering 12th grade. This addition would help protect teenagers and young adults from death and severe disability that can result from vaccine-preventable meningitis.

By following the recommendations of the CDC, we can help ensure a healthier Idaho.

Sincerely,

# 2018 IDAHO IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT



Learn, Share, Educate, Advocate, and  
Immunize to Protect Every Idahoan

## Keynote Speaker:

Catherine Flores-Martin,  
Executive Director,  
California Immunization  
Coalition

## Costs:

- Early Bird \$50 (April 9<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Regular \$65 (August 1<sup>st</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Late/Same Day \$80 (October 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)

Registration covers the Summit, educational credits, parking, and meals.

## Have a question or need a scholarship?

Email: Karen Sharpnack at [kjs@idahoimmune.org](mailto:kjs@idahoimmune.org) or  
call 208-961-1514.



Don't forget to like us on:



## Event Details

October 11, 2018  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Saint Alphonsus  
McCleary Auditorium,  
1055 N Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho

## Topics:

- How to be a great ADVOCATE for Immunizations
- Marketing to Different Generations
- Inspirational Story from a Survivor
- Idaho Immunization Rates: Update
- Adult Immunization and Flu

## Activity:

- Nominate an individual or organization for the IIC Immunization Excellence Awards



[Register Here](#)

## Medical HepB Update

This educational session will explore recent trends in the incidence of hepatitis B infection, including:

- \* Assess the impact of the national opioid crisis on hepatitis B infection rates
- \* Identify challenges to hepatitis B vaccination coverage in adults
- \* Outline potential limitations of 3-dose hepatitis B vaccine regimens
- \* Review immunogenicity and safety of a 2-dose hepatitis B vaccine for

ISU College of Pharmacy  
311 E Central Drive RM 738-1 Meridian, Idaho

Wednesday September 19, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Free Event- Space Limited

Rachel Clark, MPH, MBA, Regional Director, Medical Affairs,  
Dynavax Technologies



[Register Here](#)



# Save the Date

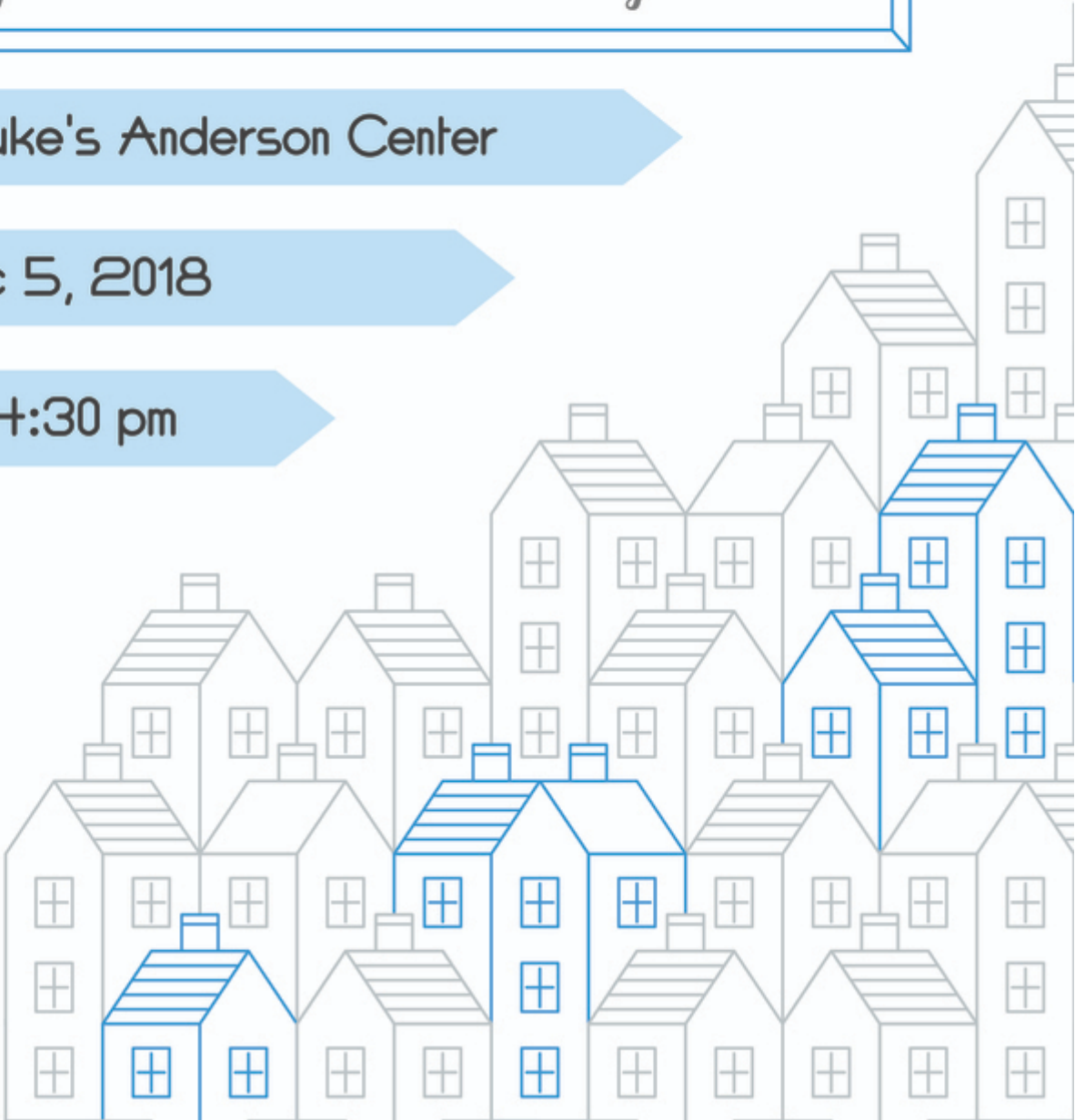
*Building the adult immunization neighborhood!*

Location: St. Luke's Anderson Center

Date: Wed, Dec 5, 2018

Time: 12 pm - 4:30 pm

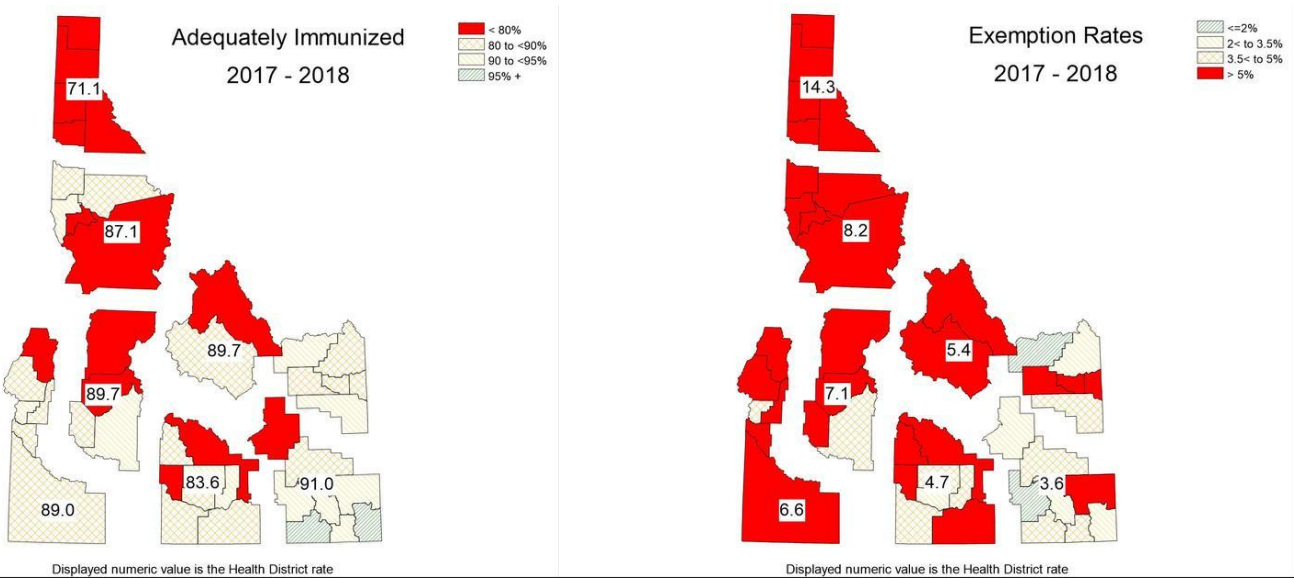
This training opportunity is for those who are involved with or interested in immunizing and advocating for adult populations



## 2017-2018 Idaho School Immunization Report

The 2017-2018 Idaho School Immunization Report includes self-reported data from all Idaho schools on students enrolled in kindergarten, first grade, and seventh grade. Overall, the percentage of students (K, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade) statewide who are reported to have an up-to-date immunization record on file is close to 87%. Overall statewide, the report indicated that 6.9% of enrolled students (K, 1st grade, and 7th grade) have an immunization exemption form on file.

Below are maps that show the percentage of reported adequate immunization records and exemptions on file at Idaho schools for students enrolled in kindergarten, first grade, and seventh grade, by health district region. For more information on Idaho school data go to <https://tinyurl.com/yb6953gp>.



## Vaccination rates delay a return to school - By Jennifer Liebrum

I watched my twin daughters, 14, wrap their textbooks in plain brown paper chatting about artfully personalizing the covers, and lamenting the treks on the stairs in a full day of high school.

This scene signified the return to mainstream life after a leukemia diagnosis and bone marrow transplant blew apart a slew of dreams that in adolescence were just beginning to morph from soft focus to ambitious pursuit.

I ignored the news pinging on my phone to take pictures. A moment missed is at risk of being forgotten. When you have faced what these two have--mostly apart--you can't afford to forget one single instant that might inspire them through a current moment's struggle.

Later, over ice cream, I read: "Measles confirmed in 21 states." "Whooping cough outbreak worsens in Southwestern Idaho."

Two years ago, I would have scratched my head that these preventable and potentially fatal plagues were even around. I wouldn't have given it more thought because all of us have always been safely vaccinated against these deadly germs.

But as part of Devon's death-defying foray with cancer, she was stripped of not only her childhood, but also her immune system. With her father's bone marrow, and tenacity fueled by her primal need to be back by her twin's side, her immunities are strong enough to do battle with a cold without it becoming deadly pneumonia, but not much else.

At cancer's diagnosis, they gave survival odds of 50/50. Because Devon gave 100 gazillion percent to live, she is ready to begin high school. Because a significant number of her classmates are not vaccinated, she can't.

She took two shots in her belly for four months, lived in isolation for the better part of two years, and missed out on family gatherings, holidays, friends, her pets, time with her horse, on the softball field, at church. Still, she has still bravely stuck her arm out for her annual flu shot this year, and counts the days til she can be fully done with vaccines and get on with her life, not counting on others to keep her alive.

In July, her doctors proudly declared her safe to return to school with the caveat that at the mere mention of an outbreak of any communicable, vaccine-preventable disease, she should stay home.

With this latest news, we know we narrowly dodged whooping cough already as Gracie's softball team coughed all season after playing in that part of Idaho. We know there is one confirmed case here in our town.

Still, with precautions in place, Devon was cautiously optimistic to be seen among her peers as the strong, healthy, funny kid they knew before. Until this news.

According to the statistics provided all Idaho school nurses, in our own Blaine County, an average of 67 percent of her peers are fully vaccinated. For a person like Devon to navigate a school population and benefit from the health of the herd to keep her safe until she's caught up, at least 95 percent of your surrounding population needs to be fully vaccinated.

Her Utah doctors support a class action lawsuit should Devo contract some preventable illness in school. But I'm raising future participants in their village, not crash test dummies. I just want my girls to be able to tackle this next phase, together, as they have since birth. And to be afforded the quality public education our county provides, which is why we live here.

Those of you who fought so hard to get her to this point will see your investment stalled. Who knows what is being denied her, and, y'all, because she can't realize her potential.

She might have been the one who was your kid's only pal. Or, she could be the one who holds the cure for cancer.

For more information please visit [getimmunizedidaho.org](http://getimmunizedidaho.org)



Jennifer Liebrum & Daughter Devon Liebrum