



# FAST FACTS

*A message for health care providers*



## Misperceptions about Contraindications to Vaccination

### The problem

- Providers might misperceive certain conditions or circumstances as valid contraindications or precautions to vaccination when they actually do not preclude vaccination.
- These misperceptions result in missed opportunities to administer recommended vaccines.

**Every visit should be a vaccine visit!**

### Vaccination stats indicate much room for improvement:

- Ages 19-35 months: 71% in NYS, excluding NY City, are fully immunized (Source: 2008-2009 NIS)
- Ages 13-17 years: In NYS, excluding NY City, 84% received Tdap; 68% received meningococcal vaccine and 52% (females) received  $\geq 1$  HPV vaccine dose & 38% received all 3 doses (Source: 2010 NIS-Teen)
- Aged 65+: 65% in NYS immunized with pneumococcal vaccine and 71% with influenza vaccine (Source: 2008 BRFSS data)

### Most common conditions mistakenly considered to be contraindications are:

- Diarrhea
- Minor upper respiratory tract illnesses (including otitis media) with or without fever
- Mild to moderate local reactions to a previous vaccine dose
- Current antimicrobial therapy
- Being in the convalescent phase of an acute illness.

(Source: ACIP General Recommendations January 28, 2011 and July 29, 2011)

**Step up to the plate – vaccinate!**

### Resources

- Guide to Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm)
- Chart of Conditions Commonly Misperceived as Contraindications to Vaccination: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications-misconceptions.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications-misconceptions.htm)
- ECDOH Immunization Program 716-961-6863 [www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp](http://www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp)
- NYSIIS [www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information\\_system](http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information_system)
- Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov)
- NYSDOH Immunization Program 716-847-4385 [www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization)