

# FAST FACTS

*A message for health care providers*

## Immunizations

### The problem

- Only 71% of children ages 19-35 months in NY State, excluding NY City, are fully immunized. Source: National Immunization Survey (NIS) July 2008-June 2009
- Only 65% of surveyed New Yorkers, aged 65+ were immunized with pneumococcal vaccine, and only 71% with influenza vaccine. Source: 2008 BRFSS data

### Things you can do to increase immunization rates in your practice

- Enroll in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program to secure immunizations for under and uninsured children.
- Review patient record prior to appointment to prevent missed opportunities for vaccination.
- Administer all immunizations according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule.
- Consider combination vaccinations per ACIP recommendations.
- Use the official CDC catch up schedule to bring patients up to date.
- Utilize the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).
- Schedule the next appointment for follow up vaccine before the patient leaves the office.
- Send out a reminder notice for due and past due immunizations.
- Post the most current CDC immunization schedule in all exam rooms.

### How to effectively address parent reluctance to vaccinate

- Always provide parent and patient with the most current Vaccine Information Statements.
- Use only valid contraindications when delaying vaccinations.
- If a vaccine is not given, document in the medical record reason why patient was not immunized.
- If parent/patient refuses vaccine consider having them sign a vaccine refusal form.
- Provide resources to parents and patients who have concerns or questions (see below.)

### Resources

- Vaccine for Children (VFC) program [www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines\\_for\\_children.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines_for_children.htm)
- Immunization schedules [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm)
- Vaccine Information Statements [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm)
- Vaccine Refusal Form <http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2681&nodeID=4035>
- 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)
- General vaccine info [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)
- Vaccine info for providers [www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/providers](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/providers)
- NYSDOH Immunization Program 847-4385 [www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization)
- ECDOH Immunization Program 961-6839 [www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp](http://www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp)
- Remember to report any adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).