The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet on February 27-28, 2019. Please see the agenda here. Votes are expected on updated recommendations for Japanese Encephalitis vaccine for travelers and anthrax vaccine. Discussions will include acceptability of HPV for mid-adults and the immunogenicity and safety of pediatric hexavalent vaccine. The new format of ACIP includes more structured public comment during a designated 75 minute time frame before any votes. The meeting can be viewed via live webcast. Instructions can be found here.

We have received a few questions from providers regarding what seems to be a longer turnaround time between vaccine orders being placed and when they are actually received in your office. It has always been stated that orders may take two weeks for delivery. Often times this turnaround time was much faster and we came to expect order delivery sooner. Of late, it appears to be taking the full two weeks in most cases and occasionally in recent weeks even a day or two longer because of weather delays.

As always, we encourage you to contact us if you are experiencing an unexpected challenge with any portion of your immunization program. We take your concerns seriously and strive to provide quick answers and offer technical assistance. When the matter is something within our control, we strive to improve the system and when it is not in our control we seek to provide you with an explanation.
Immunize Action Coalition (IAC) IAC's “Clinic Tools: Screening for Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions” web page provides resources from IAC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help you assess if it is safe to vaccinate your patient at that day's visit.

On IAC's Clinic Tools: Screening for Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions web page on immunize.org, you will find a comprehensive collection of resources from IAC and CDC related to vaccine contraindications and precautions. This web page can be found by selecting the "Clinic Tools" tab (third from the left) in the blue banner across the top of every immunize.org web page and then selecting "Screening for Contraindications" in the drop-down menu.

In the left-hand column of the page, you will find IAC's educational materials related to screening for contraindications and precautions. From here, you can access IAC's screening checklists for vaccination as well as links to other related resources available on immunize.org. The right-hand column of the page includes resources from CDC.

Visit Clinic Tools: Screening for Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions on immunize.org.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites all immunizers to join its Community of Immunizers Listserv and to subscribe to the AAP Immunization Initiatives Newsletter. The Community of Immunizers Listserv is currently comprised of approximately 180 immunizers, including physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, and other office staff. It allows users to communicate with fellow immunizers, ask questions, and share ideas, resources, and successes! Email immunize@aap.org, and include IZCOMMUNITY and your role as an immunization advocate to request to be added to the Community of Immunizers Listserv.

AAP also provides information and many resources through its AAP Immunization Initiatives Newsletter, including updates, events, research, and other resources for healthcare professionals. To subscribe, send an email to immunize@aap.org, with the word "newsletter" in the "subject" field.

January’s Parent’s PACK newsletter from the Vaccine Education Center includes video about viral infections and why shingles and HPV can remain in host long-term.

Parents PACK (Possessing, Accessing, and Communicating Knowledge about vaccines) from the Vaccine Education Center (VEC) at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia offers an electronic newsletter for parents. The January issue features an article titled The Stages of Viral Infection: How HPV and Shingles Play the Long Game. Accompanying this article is a video with Dr. Paul Offit, along with a transcript, in which he explains this subject further.

Healthcare providers should check out the issue and encourage parents to subscribe to the free Parents PACK newsletter.
Alexander Pope famously said, “to err is human.” Of course, everyone makes mistakes, but often in a health care setting, errors affect others. Health care settings can be busy and chaotic. You have to take the time to check, double check, and even triple check to make sure you are doing the right thing, the right way. This is especially true with vaccines. There are so many choices. There is public and private vaccine. Has the patient’s Vaccines For Children (VFC) eligibility been checked and are you choosing the correct vaccine funding source? Then there are so many different vaccine types and brands; DTaP vs. Tdap, adult formulations vs. pediatric, combination vaccines vs. single antigens, etc. The list goes on and on.

Deborah Wexler, MD, Executive Director of the Immunization Action Coalition, writes a monthly column, “Technically Speaking.” This month, Dr. Wexler discusses avoiding vaccine errors. In her article, Want to Avoid Vaccine Errors? These Print Materials and Slide Sets Will Help You!, Dr. Wexler offers several tools, from print material to presentations, to help avoid vaccine errors. If you are thinking of putting together a presentation for your next staff meeting, look at incorporating the PowerPoint slides included in her article.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices National Vaccine Errors Reporting Program (ISMP VERP) analyzed 575 reported vaccine related administration errors submitted between January 2017 and December 2017. The number one reported vaccine administration error was the wrong vaccine, followed by the wrong dose. You can read more in their article ISMP National Vaccine Errors Reporting Program 2017 Analysis (Part 1): Vaccine Errors Continue with Little Change.

To err may be human but taking a little extra time and double checking, even on busy days, will decrease vaccine administration errors and avoid that embarrassing phone call to inform patients of an error that could have been prevented.

Please watch for many announcements related to the 2019 Kansas Immunization Conference in the coming issues of What’s Happening Wednesday. Make plans now to be in Salina June 11—13, 2019 for another informative annual conference.
Vaccine Hesitancy - How to Talk to Parents so They Will Listen, and Listen so Parents Will Talk

Thursday, February 21, 2019
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Presented by Barbara Pahud, MD, MPH

Dr. Barbara Pahud is a pediatric infectious disease specialist in Leawood, Kansas and is affiliated with Children's Mercy Kansas City. She received her medical degree from Universidad La Salle School of Medicine.

Dr. Pahud is familiar to many of our providers as a very powerful and engaging speaker with a great passion for vaccination of the children of Kansas and beyond. She has published many peer reviewed articles and completed significant research associated with vaccines and methods to improve vaccination rates. She is a frequently sought after lecturer on many vaccine topics, including how to talk with vaccine hesitant parents and how to listen so they will talk.

Link for webinar –
Please click this URL to join.
https://kumc.zoom.us/j/697636865

Or join by phone:
Dial: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 929 436 2866
Webinar ID: 697 636 865

You will see and hear the speaker logging on with the link. Please check your video and audio prior to the presentation date.

The only communication is through the chat box. Questions may be entered anytime and the speaker will address the question at the end of the presentation.

It is very important when logging onto the webinar you use your full name in order for you to receive credit and for us to identify you with the email you provided on the registration form.

Recording your attendance:
Following the webinar approximately 5 days after the webinar, attendees will receive an email containing a link with instructions to complete the evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation, your certificate will be available for download in your eeds account, based on documentation of your actual attendance time and meeting minimum attendance requirements specific to the activity. All credits will be recorded on your transcript and available anytime in your eeds account.

Vaccine Redistribution
Please email any additions or changes to be made on the Vaccine Redistribution lists with subject matter “Redistribution” to kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov or call toll free at 1-877-296-0464 Vaccine Redistribution information and lists.