We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our wonderful Vaccine For Children (VFC) provider partners for your patience and cooperation during the annual enrollment process. As we are reviewing this year’s process to identify the successes and opportunities for enhancements for next year, our primary focus is on lessening the burden on providers while still meeting the program requirements.

We are now just one month away from the 2019 Kansas Immunization Conference. If you have already completed your registration, you will be receiving a survey from the conference logistics team in the next day or two. This survey will serve two purposes. First, it will capture your selections for the breakout sessions and second will request your t-shirt size. We will be providing a conference t-shirt this year to all participants registered by May 31st with the conference logo on it. Please watch for this survey and complete it as quickly as possible. If you have not registered yet, we encourage you to do so now. After today, all new registrations will include the details to allow full registration of breakout selections as well as capturing your t-shirt size.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) have released the updated version of their Shots Immunizations app. The updated app offers all the 2019 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) schedules (adult, child/adolescent, and child catch-up), and includes detailed information on each vaccine, including dosing schedules, potential adverse reactions, contraindications, CPT codes, resident education, and more. A clinician can input patient characteristics (age, conditions, special circumstances) and receive a list of recommended vaccines. The app also provides schedules for the combination vaccines ProQuad, Pediarix/Kinrix, and Pentacel/Quadracel.
Influenza activity continues to decrease across Kansas. The Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sites will monitor patients for influenza-like illness (ILI) – symptoms include a fever (>100°F) and the presence of a cough and/or sore throat – through May 18. During the week ending May 4, ILINet sites reported 0.8% of visits were due to ILI. Syndromic surveillance indicated 1.2% of visits to emergency departments in Kansas were due to ILI. All data is subject to change. The Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories has detected A/H3 in 152 specimens, A/H1 in 67 specimens, influenza A (not subtyped) in three specimens and one influenza B (Victoria) specimen. Thirty-four influenza outbreaks have been reported to KDHE this season. Stay updated on influenza activity at [http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm).

If you are a vaccine provider or school nurse, you have heard about religious exemptions to vaccination. What exactly is a religious exemption, which religions really do oppose vaccines and why? The Kansas Statutes Related to School Immunizations document outlines religious exemptions in K.S.A 72-6262 as, “A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations.” Religious or personal beliefs verses public health is nothing new. Over 100 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of public health in [Jacobson vs. Massachusetts](http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm), when Mr. Jacobson refused the smallpox vaccine.

Religious Concerns, an Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) webpage offers links to statements from many religious organizations regarding vaccines or vaccine ingredients. This column is not meant to cause debate. Instead it is to provide you with information on how specific religious groups view vaccinations.

**Save the Date: Upcoming Immunization Webinar**

Please join the Public Health Foundation (PHF) for a webinar featuring immunization experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Pharmacy Care at Duquesne University, Adolescent Vaccines: How Pharmacists Can Make Strong Recommendations and Referrals, on Wednesday, May 29, from 1-2 p.m. EDT.
Updates and Responses About Measles Outbreaks in the U.S.

Total number of U.S. measles cases for 2019 climbs to 839 with 75 new cases reported since last week

CDC has posted its latest update on 2019 measles cases in the U.S. on its Measles Cases and Outbreaks web page. The web page shows a preliminary estimate of 839 cases across 23 states as of May 10. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, and Washington.

Access additional information about U.S. measles cases in 2019 on CDC's Measles Cases and Outbreaks web page.

Immunize Action Coalition's (IAC) "Talking about Vaccines" web page about MMR vaccination has been updated

IAC’s Talking About Vaccines: MMR Vaccine web page on immunize.org contains numerous resources that will help you have conversations with parents and patients who have concerns about measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination, including much information to help refute the myth that MMR vaccine can cause autism. On this page, you'll find links to handouts, videos, slide presentations, journal articles, photos, and more from IAC, CDC, the Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Institute of Medicine, Vaxopedia, and the Autism Science Foundation.

To easily locate this web page from anywhere on immunize.org, go to the light blue band of tabs across the top, choose the "Talking About Vaccines" tab (far right), and then select "MMR Vaccine" from the drop-down menu.

Visit the Talking About Vaccines: MMR Vaccine web page.

Voices for Vaccines releases new podcast episode about National Infant Immunization Week and the measles outbreak

Voices for Vaccines (VFV) has posted a new entry in its Vax Talk podcast series: National Infant Immunization Week & Measles Outbreaks. In this special mini-episode, Karen Ernst, VFV executive director, talks to Dr. Nathan Chomilo, pediatrician and hospital internist, about the 25th anniversary of National Infant Immunization Week and how the reasons for not vaccinating have changed over the years. They also discuss the current measles outbreaks.

Visit the VFV website podcast page

Subscribe to Vax Talk via iTunes or Google Play

If you or your organization would like information about how to become a sponsor of a VFV "Vax Talk" podcast, please contact VFV's executive director Karen Ernst, at info@voicesforvaccines.org.

VFV is a national organization of parents and others who are dedicated to raising the level of the voices of immunization supporters. VFV invites everyone who values vaccines to become a member. Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues to join VFV!
2019 Kansas Immunization Conference

We are pleased to announce that the hotel contracts have been signed and room blocks are now available at seven hotels in Salina for the 2019 Kansas Immunization Conference. Please see the chart below for a list of hotels and details related to number of rooms in our block, room rate and deadline for guaranteed rate. Note that rooms will book quickly in Salina, particularly for the last night as the annual River Festival will follow our conference. When booking, please mention the Kansas Immunization Conference to get the rate listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
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<th>Rate</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>$94 Doubles</td>
<td>5/13/2019</td>
<td>785-823-6939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to register today
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this session participants should be able to:
1. Review background information on HPV disease and vaccine.
2. Discuss vaccination strategies and counseling.
3. Explore pro-vaccination culture.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

All participants requesting continuing education credit or a certificate of attendance must complete documentation of attendance and evaluation form online within the timeframe noted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this program, contact the KU Medical Center AHEC at 620-235-4040.
KAFP Annual Meeting offers valuable CME for your practice

June 6-8 | Wichita, Kansas

CME sessions encompass social determinants of health, wound care, smart technology with children, long acting reversible contraception, POCUS, prostate cancer, COPD, obesity, diabetes, pediatrics, lupus and more. View the full schedule here.

Please contact the KAFP office at 316-721-9005 or e-mail kafp@kafponline.org with questions about the meeting or registration. We hope you will join us to Connect. Interact. Learn!

KAFP gratefully acknowledges educational support from these funders:
* Herb Doubek MD Medical Student Success Fund
* Verlyn Steinkruger MD Memorial Lectureship
* United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
* CKF Addiction Treatment
* Support of $1,000+

Thank you to all supporters and exhibitors, listed on the KAFP website.

Click here to register today!