



# The Buzz



## KDHE Immunization Program Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH, 2008

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### Visit us on the Web:

[www.kdheks.gov/immunize](http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize)

If you have vaccine you would like to transfer, please send the information to:

[jdarting@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:jdarting@kdhe.state.ks.us)

### Upcoming Events

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Governor's Kansas Public Health Conference  
Public Health in Kansas

April 28-30, 2008

Kansas 2008 Immunization Conference

Sept. 3-4, 2008

Hyatt Regency Wichita

Pre-conference courses  
Sept. 2

Registration-coming soon!

## KIP Updates the Nurse Consultant Regions

By Joshua Buffington, Assistant Director, KIP

Thanks to our two newest employees joining the Kansas Immunization Program, we are able to update the Vaccines For Children regions within the state. Our goal is to better serve the needs of our VFC providers. We are still looking for another Immunization Nurse Consultant for the Western Kansas area. If interested, please visit <http://www.kdheks.gov/employment/>.

With this transition to five nurse consultants, we considered the growing VFC provider community within the larger metro areas and the concerns and needs of our rural

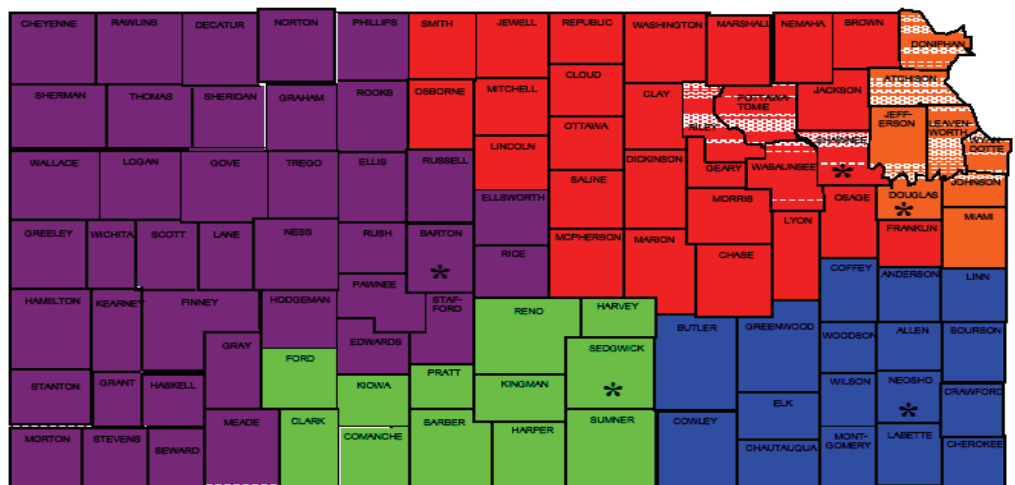
communities.

Please locate your area on the map and the correlating nurse consultant. Feel free to contact them for all your VFC needs. I have listed their contact information on the right. You can also contact the Topeka office at (785) 296-5591.

Thank you for your participation in the VFC program and your partnership in immunizing children.

- Region #1: Patti Kracht
- Region #2: Betty Grindol
- Region #3: Tim Broaderway
- Region #4: Paula Roberts
- Region #5: Martha Froetschner

- Patti Kracht  
INC, North East region  
Lawrence Office  
(785) 842-4600
- Betty Grindol  
INC, South Central region  
Wichita Office  
(316) 337-6032
- Tim Broaderway  
INC, Western region  
Great Bend Office  
(620) 792-5373
- Paula Roberts  
INC, South East region  
Chanute Office  
(620) 431-2390
- Martha Froetschner  
INC, North Central region  
Topeka Office  
(785) 296-0869



If you would like to have your event listed, please contact [Joshua Buffington](mailto:Joshua.Buffington@kdheks.gov) with the details.

# KWebIZ

*“The Kansas Immunization Registry, referred to as KWebIZ, is a no-cost, web-based birth to death database that maintains state-wide immunization records. Providers either enter into the system directly, or they exchange via HL7 batch updates or two-way exchange.”*

## Health Department Interface Roll-Out

By Kristin Shore, User Support Coordinator, KIP

The Kansas Immunization Registry team is excited to begin working on the local health department rollout through the HL7 interface. To date, work with the two vendors: QS/Insight and KIPHS/PHClinic has been extensive. Subsequently, the successful implementation of the interfaces between Finney and Riley counties (QS, Insight) has been completed and testing with Johnson County is currently taking place. The remaining health department on QS is Wyandotte County. The data cleansing process with them will begin soon. Likewise, the interface with KIPHS, PHClinic has allowed the exchange with Harper County to be successful and testing is currently being finalized with Jefferson CHD. The next cluster to start working on this interface is the southeast corner of Kansas (Anderson, Allen, Woodson, Bourbon, Wilson, Neosho, Crawford, Montgomery, Labette, Cherokee, and Chautauqua counties). These counties have been selected based on the volume of private providers on the Registry.

Remaining health departments will be prioritized based on the number of private providers live on the Kansas Immunization Registry (KWebIZ). Other factors that will affect the ranking is the number of children under six years of age in the county, volume of clinic, if they complete a cluster, and eagerness to work on the interface. In preparation for the interface, health departments can begin cleansing their data based on a number of data fields. A document highlighting the interface process and the fields that need to be manually cleansed is located at:

[http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/webiz\\_download/Common\\_Data\\_Cleansing\\_Issues.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/webiz_download/Common_Data_Cleansing_Issues.pdf) Once the next cluster is selected for this process, KWebIZ staff will contact those counties and start working through the data extraction process. The completion of the rollout is estimated to take up to two years.

KDHE is dedicated to making this transition as easy and understandable as possible. If you have any questions about this process please feel free to contact the Kansas Immunization Registry (KWebIZ) Helpdesk at (785) 296-8747.

### WHAT IS HEALTH LEVEL 7 (HL7)?

How many providers work on their electronic information systems and don't really know the depth, functionality or opportunities that may be available within it? KWebIZ has started the movement towards health information exchange through HL7 messaging. So maybe you've heard of it, but aren't sure exactly what it is. Here's the 101. Health Level Seven (HL7) is a standardized language that allows different health care systems to be able to communicate with each other. The goal of the HL7 interface is to enable providers to continue to use their current electronic information systems and query available patient vaccination history from the state registry. In turn, HL7 messages will update the state registry with immunizations and adverse reactions. Some key benefits and barriers to HL7 interfaces are as follows:

<b><u>Benefits:</u></b>	<b><u>Barriers:</u></b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eliminates need to dual enter into two systems</li> <li>2. Can facilitate instant data exchange</li> <li>3. No need to “learn” a new system</li> <li>4. Access to consolidated vaccination histories.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ability of Electronic Medical Record to exchange messages</li> <li>2. Possible associated costs</li> <li>3. Possible need for data cleansing</li> </ol>

Want to learn more about the Kansas Immunization Registry? Log on to <http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/webiz.html>

## VFC Corner



For more information on VFC contact us at (785) 296-5591 or click on:

[VFC](#)

For more information on School Entry Requirements click

[here](#)

# Kansas School Immunization Requirements

By Martha Froetschner, Nurse Consultant, NC Region, KIP

All students entering kindergarten through the fifth grade in Kansas schools during the 2008-2009 school year are required to have three doses of Hepatitis B and one dose of Varicella vaccine. The 2008-2009 vaccine requirements for school entry include both fourth and fifth graders.

Required immunizations for entry into Kansas schools for the 2009-2010 school year will include all middle school grades and the 2010-2011 school year will include all high school grades. This will assure that all children in Kansas schools are immunized over the next three years.

### Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS)

Just a reminder to please be sure you give parents and/or adults the most current version of the vaccine information sheet. The following VIS updates were sent to providers from the KDHE Immunization Program as they were released. A short synopsis of the update is repeated here:

**Your Baby's First Vaccines, What you Need to Know** - a multi-vaccine VIS sheet that may be used for any single or multiples of the vaccines included in this VIS. Hepatitis B, Polio, Pneumococcal Disease, Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Rotavirus, and HIB are included in this VIS which is dated Jan. 30, 2008.

**Meningococcal Vaccines** was updated Jan. 28, 2008. It includes both Meningococcal conjugate and polysaccharide vaccine information and documents the appropriate ages for administration of each vaccine.

**Not a VIS but a Guidance on ActHIB** from Sanofi Pasteur was released Feb. 5, 2008. The guidance discusses use of ActHIB when the HIB series was started with another HIB formulation such as PedvaxHIB or Comvax. The information also provides important diluent storage and mixing instructions.

All VIS sheets are available on the Centers for Disease Control web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccine/vis>.

## Helpful hints from Debbie, Judy and Shelly

### Vaccine Re-Distribution via Our Web Site

We have added a link to our Web site this week which will help address the issue of short-dated or excess vaccines. This link will be labeled "Vaccine Re-Distribution, and will contain information on VFC and privately purchased vaccines that are available for re-distribution to other providers.

If you have any short-dated or excess vaccine you would like added to this list, please contact the Kansas Immunization Program with the vaccine type, brand, expiration date, number of doses, facility name, contact name and contact phone and/or email address.

If the vaccine is VFC, also provide your VFC pin number and remember to obtain the pin number of the VFC provider you are transferring to or from as this information is required for reporting purposes.

### Update on Vaccine Availability

According to our Merck representative, Hepatitis A vaccine (Merck's Vaqta) will not be available until sometime in the 3rd quarter of this year (July-September).

The Kansas Immunization Program continues to receive monthly allocations from CDC of Hib vaccine. Once we have met our limit for the month, we have to wait until the first of the following month to place more orders. Some of the February orders had to be cut back to meet our monthly allotment, and the balance of these orders will be processed the first of March.

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*"Debbie, Judy and Shelly have more than 48 years of combined Kansas Immunization Program experience"*



# Ask The Buzz!

Paula Roberts, INC, SE Region, KIP

We are happy to announce a new section of our newsletter called "Ask The Buzz!"

This section is dedicated to answering your questions regarding anything related to vaccines and their administration, storage and handling or the VFC program.

This month's questions comes from a recent KsWebIZ conference call and a provider inquiry.

**Q. If a child, who is 11 years old, was accidentally given a DTap instead of a Tdap what should be done? Should the child be revaccinated with Tdap?**

A. If an adolescent was mistakenly given DTap instead of the Tdap vaccine then the DTap dose that was given should be counted as the Tdap adolescent booster and then no vaccine needed until the usual 10 year interval. Then dose with the tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine. [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5503.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5503.pdf) (9/10/06)

**Q. We are working hard to clean up our data and work on our rates, I am not sure of the MOGE/CLOSE rules in situations like REFUSALS. Does CoCASA consider these, can they CLOSE in WebIZ based on the refusal?**

A. A refusal is not a valid MOGE. It will continue to show as an incomplete immunization series (which it is). KSWebIZ has a box that can be checked "do not send reminder" so this child will not show up in a reminder recall run in the KSWebIZ.

If you have a question that you would like to Ask The Buzz! you can e-mail [Paula Roberts](mailto:Paula.Roberts@kswebiz.com) or give her a call at (620) 431-2390.

## KDHE asks for 2008 Statewide Flu Clinic help

By Sue Bowden, Director, KIP

The KDHE Immunization Program is seeking assistance from local health departments for the provision of influenza immunization services for state workers for the 2008-2009 influenza season. Health departments interested in this effort should communicate the ability of the agency to:

- Purchase influenza vaccine and bill state employee insurance plans for the administration fee and cost of the vaccine. *\*(Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Coventry, Preferred Health systems)*
- Conduct influenza vaccination clinic(s) targeted at state workers ; Or
- Prioritize state workers presenting for influenza vaccination services during stated clinic times; and
- Vaccinate uninsured workers and bill the KDHE Immunization Program for the cost of the vaccine

KDHE would advertise clinic locations and times to state employees to help with local access to vaccination services. This effort is intended to support local health department annual influenza vaccination services and give state employees convenient access to influenza vaccine, increasing the likelihood of vaccination.

The numbers of doses of vaccine given in the state employee influenza clinics in November 2007 were:

Chanute	183	Salina	272	Wichita	462	Topeka	3289
Dodge City	86	Lawrence	485	Hays	200		

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help with this endeavor. We look forward to your response.

# Factual Information Regarding Vaccines, Thimerosal and Autism

*By Sue Bowden, Director, KIP*

In an effort to educate the public through Kansas public health resources. I am sharing the following information. As public health professionals, you all can help counter the misinformation that aired during an ABC television drama, "Eli Stone."

The immunization program deals with issues related to vaccine safety and concern by parents about having their children vaccinated on a regular basis. Caring, conscientious parents are vulnerable to the untruths and misperceptions continuously put forth in the media regarding immunizations, and are hesitant to have their children immunized based on this information. Immunizations are a true public health success story. Through the immunization work of public health professionals like you over the years, the work has been done so well that our job has been made harder. Parents no longer know the face, thankfully, of the horrible diseases that immunizations prevent so well. We now have the luxury of being more afraid of the vaccines themselves than the disease they prevent.

I urge you to please share the scientific, factual information that makes the information contained in the first "Eli Stone" episode obviously blatantly incorrect, perpetuating the myth that autism is caused by mercury in vaccines. Please do what you can to prevent the adverse effect this episode will have on immunization rates of children and the potential for disease occurrence.

A feature was added to the spotlight section of CDC's vaccines Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/tv-show.htm>). CDC is also updating their autism site ([www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism)) and working to get a feature placed on CDC's home page ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

## Kansas Immunization Program Staff

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*To contact the Kansas Immunization Program, please call (785) 296-5591*