

THE TUSCOLA TRACKER

Tuscola County Health Department

January, February, March 2009

New Lead Limits in Children's Products



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Starting on February 10, 2009, consumer products intended for children 12 and under cannot have more than 600 parts per million of lead in any accessible part. This new safety requirement is a key component of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) aimed at further reducing children's exposure to lead.

In an effort to provide clear and reasonable guidance to those impacted by this important law, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is announcing its enforcement policy on the lead limits established by the CPSIA.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers should also be aware that CPSC will not impose penalties against anyone for making, importing, distributing, or selling

- a children's product to the extent that it is made of certain natural materials, such as wood, cotton, wool, or certain metals and alloys which the Commission has recognized rarely, if ever, contain lead;

- an ordinary children's book printed after 1985; or

- dyed or undyed textiles (not including leather, vinyl or PVC) and non-metallic thread and trim used in children's ap-

parel and other fabric products, such as baby blankets.

(The Commission generally will not prosecute someone for making, selling or distributing items in these categories even if it turns out that such an item actually contains more than 600 ppm lead.)

Sellers will not be immune from prosecution if CPSC's Office of Compliance finds that someone had actual knowledge that one of these children's products contained more than 600 ppm lead or continued to make, import, distribute or sell such a product after being put on notice. Agency staff will seek recalls of violative children's products or other corrective actions, where appropriate.

CPSC will issue an interim final rule effective February 10, 2009, which establishes alternative lead limits for certain electronic devices, in order to prevent unnecessary removal of certain children's products from store shelves.

CPSC will accept a manufacturer's determination that a lead-containing part on their product is inaccessible to a child and not subject to the new lead limits, if it is consistent with the Commission's proposed guidance or is based on a reasonable reading of the inaccessibility requirement. Paint and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lead Limits	1
ACIP Recommendation for Smokers	2
Communicable Disease Reports	
Meningitis Shot for Summer Campers	3
Health Department Stats	4
Q&A—HPV Vaccine	Insert
Q&A—Pre-teen Vaccines	Insert

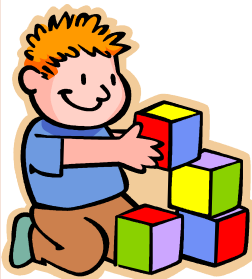
Lead Limits (continued)

other coatings or electroplating are not considered barriers that make a component inaccessible.

This enforcement policy will remain in effect until superseded by action of the Commission.

CPSC still expects companies to meet their reporting obligation under federal law and immediately tell the Commission if they learn of a children's product that exceeds the new lead limits starting on February 10, 2009. Companies also should know that the CPSIA generally prohibits the export for sale of children's products that exceed the new lead limits.

As announced on January 30, 2009, the Commission approved a one year stay of enforcement for certain



testing and certification requirements for manufacturers and importers. Significant to makers of children's products, the 'stay' provides limited relief from the testing and certification for total lead content limits, phthalates limits for certain products and mandatory toy standards. Manufacturers and importers - large and small - of

children's products will not need to test or certify to these new requirements, but will still need to meet the lead and phthalates limits, mandatory toy standards and other requirements. Certification based on testing by an accredited laboratory is still required for painted children's products and soon will be required for children's metal jewelry, as well as certain other products for non-lead issues.

ACIP Recommends Smokers Get PPSV

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meets three times annually and provides recommendations to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) concerning the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. In October, the ACIP voted to add smoking as an indication for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) for adults 19 through 64 years old.

Communicable Disease Reports

Disease	October-November-December 2008	October-November-December 2007
Campylobacter	0	5
Cryptosporidiosis	2	0
Giardiasis	1	0
Salmonellosis	1	5
Pneumonia, Invasive	0	1
Coccidioidomycosis	2	0
Bacterial Meningitis	2	2
MRSA	1	3
Varicella	4	5
Pertussis	1	0
Hepatitis A	1	0
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	0
Hepatitis C, Chronic	6	3
Hepatitis C, Unknown	0	0

Rabies Investigations	Oct-Nov-Dec 2008	Oct-Nov-Dec 2007
Reports received and investigated	8	9
Tested positive for rabies	0	0

School Reports

October-November-December 2008

Bronchitis	2	Flu-like illness	106
Hand, Foot, & Mouth	2	Head Lice	30
Impetigo	1	MRSA	1
Pink Eye	19	Scarlet Fever	2
Shingles	1	Strep	46
Varicella	4		

Please note: Diagnosis is not always made by a health care professional.

Meningitis Shot—Add to Summer Camp to-Do List

Sunscreen, swimsuit, bug repellent—and the meningitis vaccine? Experts say the potentially lifesaving shot is now a “must-have” item for kids headed off to camp this summer.

“Many parents are aware of the need for vaccination when kids are leaving for college but don’t think of it for early adolescence—they are not aware of the fact that the CDC is recommending vaccination for younger children,” said Peg Smith, the CEO of the American Camp Association, a 7000-member organization that aims to ensure that the nation’s camps are safe and healthy.



Since June of 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics have recommended that children aged 11 to 18 undergo routine immunization against meningococcal disease, which includes meningitis.

Nancy Ford Springer, a founding board member of the National Meningitis Association, was one of those who testified before the CDC urging that young people be immunized against meningococcal disease.

Her son, Nick, contracted the illness when he was 14 and away at camp. She speculates that he became sick after sharing water bottles with his fellow campers.

Nick survived, but not until he had both his legs and hands amputated because the infection had gotten into his bloodstream. He is now 22, a college student and a champion athlete—he won the 2006 gold medal at the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships, Christchurch, New Zealand.

“I’m all for sending kids to camp—we sent Nick back to camp for three more years—but also for parents speaking to their pediatricians about vaccinating their children before going to camp,” said Springer, who is a teacher for the deaf in Westchester County, N.Y.

To that end, the National Meningitis Association is working with the American Camp Association to increase awareness among the parents of campers as well as camp directors and counselors on the importance of vaccinating children before they go away to camp. Making sure that kids don’t share water bottles or eating utensils can also cut down the risk.

Meningococcal disease is a result of either viral or bacterial infection. The viral infection is less severe, but the much rarer bacterial form can lead to meningitis, pneumonia and

blood stream infections and prove lethal.

“Although there are only 2,00 to 3,000 cases (of meningococcal bacterial illnesses) per year, they tend to be serious. There is a 10 percent mortality rate and 10 to 20 percent of patients have significant and permanent damage, including neurological, hearing and learning problems,” said Harry Keyserling, a professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

The bacteria are spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions, such as occurs after coughing, kissing or sharing drinks from the same bottle. Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis is as contagious as the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been, according to the CDC.

Those living in close, barracks-type environments with a lot of other people—such as college students, campers or those in the military—are especially vulnerable to contagion, Keyserling said.

Particularly insidious as well is that the disease moves very quickly. Unfortunately, the early symptoms of meningitis mimic the simple flu, so patients and their parents often don’t know that they should seek immediate treatment.

“Because meningococcal infection can be so rapid, often by the time the patient seeks treatment it’s relatively late in its course. This is a disease you need to prevent rather than treat,” Keyserling said.

The recommended vaccine is effective against four of the five causes of meningococcal disease, Keyserling said, including the most common infections, so that the vaccination is 80 percent effective. Only one injection is required to provide immunity.

Keyserling supports the CDC’s recommendation for vaccinations for young people.

“It’s very exciting that we have a new vaccine that will meet the need to decrease the cases of serious illnesses in the U.S., and we have to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated,” he said.



-Source: MSN Health & Fitness

HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



The Tuscola County Health Department conducts immunization clinics on Monday afternoons, Tuesdays, and Thursdays by appointment. We also offer evening appointments the first and second Tuesday of each month.

We serve all ages, infant through adult. You may schedule an appointment by calling 989-673-8114, ext. 110 or 102.

Immunization Update:

During October, November, and December 2008, 751 children received 1646 vaccinations at the health department.

Visit
our
Website

www.tchd.us

for the latest information on our programs, hours, clinic schedules, etc.

TUSCOLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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The Tuscola Tracker is a quarterly newsletter providing local health department reports and information about communicable diseases and community health issues. Our resources include publications by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) and other sources. If you'd like more information, or have questions regarding the above topics or other public health issues, please contact Ann Hepfer at 989-673-8114, ext. 117.

Questions & Answers

for Parents of Pre-teens about

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

and the HPV Vaccine



What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is a common virus that is spread through sexual contact. Most of the time HPV has no symptoms so people do not know they have it. There are many different strains or types of HPV. Some types can cause cervical cancer in women and can also cause other kinds of cancer in both men and women. Other types of HPV can cause genital warts in both males and females.

In most people, HPV goes away on its own without any treatment and does not cause health problems. Experts do not know why HPV goes away in some cases, but not in others.

How common is HPV?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, with about 20 million people currently infected. Your daughter has an 80 percent chance of getting HPV by the time she is 50. Every year in the U.S., about 6.2 million people get a new HPV infection. HPV is most common in young people who are in their late teens and early 20s.

How common is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is a serious health problem in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2007, over 11,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and approximately 3,600 will die from it in the U.S.

What is the HPV vaccine?

This vaccine is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and genital warts due to HPV. It works by protecting against the types of HPV that most commonly cause these diseases. The vaccine is given in 3-doses.

Who should get the HPV vaccine?

Doctors recommend this vaccine for 11 and 12 year old girls. If your teenage daughter missed getting this vaccine when she was 11 or 12, make an appointment for her to get it now.

Ideally, girls should get this vaccine before their first sexual contact when they could be exposed to HPV. This is because the vaccine prevents disease in girls/women who have not previously gotten one or more types of HPV prevented by the vaccine. It does not work as well for those who were exposed to the virus before getting the vaccine.

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Is the HPV vaccine effective?

This vaccine targets types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer and genital warts. This vaccine is highly effective in preventing these types of HPV in young women who have not been previously exposed to them. The vaccine will not treat existing diseases or conditions caused by HPV.

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

The vaccine has been licensed as safe. Before it was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the vaccine was studied in thousands of girls and women in the U.S. and around the world. These studies have shown no serious side effects. The most common side effect is soreness where the shot is given (in the arm).

Are there other ways, besides the vaccine, to prevent HPV?

The surest way to prevent genital HPV is to avoid sexual contact. For persons who are sexually active, condoms may lower their chances of getting HPV, if used all the time and the right way. Condoms may lower a person’s chances of developing genital warts and cervical cancer. But HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom—so condoms may not fully protect against HPV.

Will girls/women be protected against HPV and related diseases, even if they don’t get all three doses of the vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is recommended as a 3-dose vaccine. It is not yet known how much protection

girls/women would get if they receive only one or two doses of the vaccine. For this reason, it is very important that girls/women get all three doses of the vaccine.

Will the girls/women who have been vaccinated still need a Pap test, also called “cervical cancer screening”?

Yes, they will still need to see their healthcare provider for a Pap test. Regular Pap tests are recommended for all women starting within three years of when a girl/woman begins sexual activity or at age 21, whichever comes first. The vaccine will not provide protection against all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, so women will still be at risk for some cancers.

Why is the vaccine only recommended for girls/women 9 through 26 years old?

The vaccine has been widely tested in 9 through 26 year old females. But research on how well the vaccine works in older women has just recently begun. The FDA may consider licensing the vaccine for these women when there is research to show it is safe and effective for them.

What about vaccinating boys?

We do not yet know if the vaccine is effective in boys or men. Studies are being done to find out if the vaccine is effective in males. When more information is available, this vaccine may be licensed and recommended for boys/men as well.



**For more information on vaccines,
ask your child’s healthcare provider
or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
Website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/preteen/**

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Questions and answers for parents about pre-teen vaccines

Vaccines are not just for infants. As children get older, the immunity provided by childhood vaccines can wear off. Children also develop risks for more diseases as they enter their pre-teen years. For these reasons, they need vaccinations too. Doctors recommend pre-teens get several vaccines at their 11 or 12 year old check-up.

Q: What vaccines do pre-teens need?

- A:**
- **Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap).**
 - **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).**
 - **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, also known as the “cervical cancer vaccine.”**

The Tdap and MCV4 vaccines are recommended for all pre-teens. The HPV vaccine is only recommended for girls. Pre-teens should get the following vaccinations if they did not receive them during childhood: Hepatitis B, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). Pre-teens who were vaccinated against chickenpox as infants should receive a booster shot now.

Q: Why are these vaccines necessary?

- A:** These vaccines prevent serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. Immunity from some childhood vaccines can decrease over time, so people need to get another dose of the vaccine during their pre-teen years. Also, as children move into adolescence, they are at greater risk of catching certain diseases, like meningitis and HPV.

Q: When should pre-teens be vaccinated?

- A:** Pre-teens can receive all of these vaccines during their 11 or 12 year old check-up. If your child missed that check-up, ask your child’s doctor about getting the vaccines now.

Q: Are these vaccines safe and effective?

- A:** All of these vaccines have been widely studied and are safe and effective. Pre-teens may experience mild side effects such as redness and soreness where they get the injection. These vaccines are recommended by the American Academy for Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Q: Can I get help paying for vaccines?

- A:** For families with health insurance, all or most of the cost of vaccines is usually covered. Children age 18 and younger may be eligible to get vaccines for free through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program if they are: Medicaid eligible; uninsured; or American Indian or Alaska Native. Doctors can charge a fee to give each shot. However, VFC vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee. To learn more about the VFC program, visit the website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/ or contact your State VFC Coordinator. A list of VFC Coordinators is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/contacts.htm.

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**Ask your child’s doctor
about these vaccines today.**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

