

# THE TUSCOLA TRACKER

Tuscola County Health Department

July, August, September 2008

- 131 cases of measles reported to CDC since January 1, 2008
- 112 were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status
- Measles is one of the first diseases to reappear when immunization coverage rates fall
- 4 measles cases were reported in Michigan

## MEASLES

More measles cases have been reported in the United States since January 1, 2008 than during the same period in any given year since 1996, according to a report released by the CDC in the August 22 MMWR.

Between January 1 and July 31, 2008, 131 cases were reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD). At least 15 patients, including four children younger than 15 months of age, were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

In the decade before the measles vaccination program began, an estimated 3-4 million persons in the United States were infected each year. Of these, 400-500 died, 48,000 were hospitalized, and another 1,000 developed chronic disability from measles encephalitis.

Of the 131 patients, 112 were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status. Among the 112 unvaccinated U.S. residents with measles, 16 were younger than 12 months of age and too young for vaccination, and one had presumed evidence of measles immunity because the person was born before 1957.

Of the 95 patients eligible for vaccination, 63 were unvaccinated because of their or their parents' philosophical or religious beliefs.

Although immunization coverage rates for measles vaccine remain high, unvaccinated persons are at risk for measles, and sizeable measles outbreaks can occur in communities with a high number of unvaccinated persons.

Measles is consistently one of the first diseases to reappear when immunization coverage rates fall. Increases in the proportion of the population declining vaccination for themselves or their children might lead to large-scale outbreaks in the U.S. Currently, Israel and a number of countries in Europe—including Switzerland, Austria, Italy and the United Kingdom—are reporting sizeable measles outbreaks among populations refusing vaccination.

Reports include cases from Illinois (32 cases), New York (27), Washington (19), Arizona (14), California (14), Wisconsin (7), Michigan (4), Hawaii(5), Arkansas(20), and Washington, DC, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (1 each).



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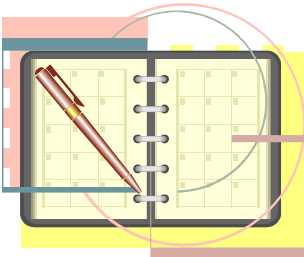
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## Flu Update

The August 8, 2008 MMWR provides the updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on the Prevention and Control of Influenza. Updates and changes include: 1) a new recommendation that that annual vaccination be administered to all children aged 5-18 years, beginning in the 2008-09 influenza season, if feasible, but no later than the 2009-10 influenza season; 2) a recommendation that annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months through 4 years continue to be a primary focus of vaccination efforts because these children are at higher risk for influenza complications compared with older children; 3) a new recommendation that either trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine or live, attenuated influenza vaccine be used when vaccinating healthy persons aged 2 through 49 years. Information on additional updates and changes as well as the full recommendations were published in the August 8 MMWR.

## Immunization Scheduler

A new immunization scheduler makes it simple for parents and providers to catch up on kids' immunizations. To assist parents and providers in the task of deciding the best strategy for getting a child back on track after not getting some or all vaccines at the recommended ages, CDC has released a cutting-edge web-based Catch-up Immunization Scheduler. The Scheduler is a downloadable, easy-to-use tool to quickly find out what vaccines are needed and when to give them to bring children up to date according to the currently recommended schedule. The Catch-up Immunization Scheduler is now available for download from the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/scheduler/catchup.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/scheduler/catchup.htm).



## Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

A four-part self-study series entitled *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases 2008* provides the most current information available in the constantly changing field of immunization. Together, the four sessions offer a comprehensive overview on immunization today. Session ONE discusses principles and general recommendations on vaccination. Sessions TWO, THREE and FOUR discuss specific vaccine-preventable diseases and their respective vaccines. Each of the four sessions is three hours in duration. Continuing Education credits will be provided. This [Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases self-study program](#) is offered free of charge in DVD and web-on-demand formats.



## Physicians for Tobacco Prevention

Are you a Physician in support of tobacco prevention? Please consider taking part in a new list-serv that will help link physicians throughout the state of Michigan and enable them to be advocates for tobacco prevention and reduction efforts. You can take part in any one or all three of the following focus areas: cessation information, funding tobacco cessation, and/or smoke-free air policy. If you are interested, please contact Kristi Villalobos at (989) 673-8114, ext. 147 or [kvillalobos@tchd.us](mailto:kvillalobos@tchd.us) and she will forward your contact information on to the necessary people.

## Thumb Health Survey

Have you received a letter from Michigan State University lately? If so, you may be receiving an important phone call soon. The call you receive will ask you to answer survey questions that are important to improving healthcare in Tuscola County. The survey is sponsored by the Thumb Rural Health Network, a local network of hospitals, public health departments, and community organizations. Tuscola County Health Department is a member of this Network, so please don't hang up that phone. Your results are completely confidential and the statistics gathered from all survey participants are important. They will be used to bring grants and other funding to your local community. Healthcare providers will also be able to use your input to plan programs that will make a difference in your health and the lives of your



loved ones! Take a little time to have your say. For more information, you may contact Kay Balcer, Project Consultant at 989-479-3468.

## Communicable Disease Reports

Disease	April-May-June 2008	April-May-June 2007
Campylobacter	3	3
Cryptosporidiosis	2	
Giardiasis	2	
Salmonellosis	3	1
Pneumonia, Invasive	1	1
Coccidioidomycosis	1	
Legionellosis	1	
Q Fever		1
Strep Pneumonia		1
Varicella	3	5
Pertussis	1	
Hepatitis A		1
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	
Hepatitis C, Chronic	6	2
Hepatitis C, Unknown	2	

Rabies Investigations	April-May-June 2008	April-May-June 2007
Reports received and investigated	7	12
Tested positive for rabies	0	0

### Measles—continued from page 1

Nine of the importations were in U.S. residents who had traveled abroad, and 8 were in foreign visitors. An additional 99 of the 131 cases had evidence of importation or were epidemiologically linked to importations. These import-related cases have largely occurred among school-aged children who are eligible for vaccination but whose parents have chosen not to vaccinate them.

As international travel continues to surge, the threat to children within the U.S. and other developed countries remains high. Worldwide, measles still infects nearly 18 million children, killing an estimated 242,000 each year. That is 600 children who die each day from this disease. The Measles Initiative—a partnership led by the American Red Cross, CDC, United Nations Foundation, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization—is working to reduce measles deaths by 90% worldwide by 2010 (compared to 2000).

For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/MMWR](http://www.cdc.gov/MMWR).

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

### School Reports

April, May, June 2008

Flu	25	Headlice	9
Strep	10		

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

### FLU CLINICS

The Tuscola County Health Department is offering flu vaccinations on a walk-in basis (on certain days) for **adults**. Check your local newspaper for the list of dates, or call our flu hotline at 989-673-8114, ext. 187.

The health department will administer **children's** flu shots by appointment only. Please call 989-673-8114, ext. 110 or 102 for an appointment.



[www.tchd.us](http://www.tchd.us)

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

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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 Hepter at 989-673-8114, ext. 117.