

## [Japan: no link between child deaths, Pfizer, sanofi shots](#)

*Bloomberg (3/8/11)*

There is no link between Pfizer's Prevnar and Sanofi-Aventis' Act-HIB vaccines and the deaths of five infants in Japan in March, according to a Japanese drug safety panel. The Japan health ministry's Safety Countermeasure Committee and Vaccines Adverse Event Committee has found no abnormalities in the vaccines and says underlying disorders were associated with at least three of the deaths. The panel says more analysis is needed to identify the causes of the deaths. The ministry of health temporarily suspended the use of Prevnar and Act-HIB on March 4 and will not make a recommendation on resuming use of the vaccines until it schedules a meeting to review more data. Other countries around the world continue to use Prevnar, which protects children against meningitis and pneumonia, and Act-HIB, which fights *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

## **CDC and the FDA issue statement on March 7**

FDA and CDC continually monitor the safety of U.S.-licensed vaccines. To date, physicians assessing vaccine safety at the FDA and CDC have not detected new safety concerns or unusual reporting patterns in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) for Hib or pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV7/PCV13) among children vaccinated in the U.S. CDC and FDA will continue to monitor the safety of all vaccines, including Hib and PCV-7/13 vaccines.

## **Supreme Court upholds the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program**

On February 22, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth, Inc.* to preserve the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) that was established in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act of 1986. [The Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy \(CIDRAP\) provides a summary of the case](#) in addition to various links related to the case.

## [HHS releases U.S. National Vaccine Plan](#)

A new National Vaccine Plan was rolled out by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Feb. 16, with a goal of broadening access to preventive vaccines to all Americans by innovating the nation's vaccine system. The National Vaccine Plan has not been updated since 1994, and the latest plan covers research and development, financing, supply, distribution, safety, global cooperation, and informed decision-making on the part of consumers and healthcare providers. The National Vaccine Plan consists of two phases: a strategic plan with overall goals and objectives to achieve over a 10-year period, and an implementation plan with measurable outcomes and processes to achieve the goals of the plan. For more information: [2010 National Vaccine Plan Fact Sheet](#).

## **Partnership building project with ACOG**

In January, 2011, MDCH met with representatives from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) to discuss a grant that ACOG has been awarded to promote vaccinations in OBGYN offices. Michigan is one of four states selected to participate in this grant. Earlier this month, ACOG representatives collected survey data from ACOG-affiliated OBGYN providers in Michigan in order to assess their interest in participating in this pilot project. MDCH staff will be meeting with ACOG representatives and members from the other pilot states in order to further discuss this project and learn what other states are doing. Completion is scheduled for August, 2011. Stay tuned!

## **Adolescent immunization waiver rates**

Michigan implemented [new school immunization rules](#) this past September. Preliminary data (as of February) for 6<sup>th</sup> graders indicated:

- 96% compliance with school immunization rules (85% received required vaccines)
- 11% overall waivers (1% religious, 1% medical, and 9% other)
- The most frequently waived vaccine was meningococcal (31%), followed by DTaP/DT/Td/Tdap (26%), and varicella (22%)

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society for Adolescent Medicine, and CDC recommend that providers vaccinate based on current [ACIP recommendations](#). In doing so, Michigan's school immunization requirements will be met. Visit the [Adolescent Immunization Toolkit](#) for tools and resources related to immunizing adolescents.

## **Immunization in the news**

- [Don't be frightened by Japan's vaccine scare](#) (*Opinion*)
- [Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Vaccines](#) (2/28/11)  
Howard Markel, MD, professor of the history of medicine at the University of Michigan, published a historical perspective on the anti-vaccine movement in the New York Times.
- [Vaccine Safety Resources](#) includes information on immunization and vaccine safety available from eight different organizations, and also includes titles of books to help parents who have vaccine concerns.

## [2011 National Infant Immunization Week](#)

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities. Since 1994, NIIW has served as a call to action for parents, caregivers, and healthcare providers to ensure that infants are fully immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases. In 2011, NIIW is observed April 23-30.

## Immunization conferences announced for fall

MDCH is pleased to announce the dates for the 2011 Fall Regional Immunization Conferences:

- Oct. 5 - E. Lansing
- Oct. 6 - Dearborn
- Oct. 18 - Gaylord
- Oct. 20 - Marquette
- Nov. 1 - Bay City
- Nov. 2 - Troy
- Nov. 9 - Kalamazoo
- Nov. 10 - Grand Rapids

We are still in the planning stages for these conferences. The registration process will begin in August. As more details become available, they will be posted at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) (under Provider Information). A [Save the Date flyer](#) is also posted on our website. Stay tuned!

## Hospitalizations fall after varicella vaccination program

(Lopez et al Pediatrics 2011;127:238-245)

The number and rate of varicella-related hospitalizations declined significantly after implementation of a one-dose varicella vaccination program in 1995, according to a study published online Jan. 3 in Pediatrics. This study documents the continued decline in varicella-related hospitalizations during the 1-dose varicella vaccination era and demonstrates statistically significant declines of >65% in all age groups. These data suggest that varicella vaccination prevented 50,000 hospitalizations from 2000 to 2006.

## Michigan versions of VIS should be used in Michigan

Under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, providers are responsible to: 1) provide clients with the most current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for each vaccine before it is administered; and 2) ensure that clients are able to read the VIS (or have it read to them) prior to vaccine administration.

In Michigan, it is important that vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives be given the Michigan versions of the Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) because they include information about the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). By state law, parents must be informed about MCIR. VIS that are obtained from other sources (e.g., from the CDC or IAC) do not contain information about MCIR. The Michigan versions of the VIS are posted on the MDCH website at: [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize).

## 2011-2012 Watch Me Grow Calendar released

The Watch Me Grow (WVG) calendar promotes the health and well being of families, and helps build support networks by sharing information about effective programs and resources. Calendars may be purchased at a cost of \$1.25 per calendar through the [Watch Me Grow website](#).

## Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

MITT is posted at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize), under the Provider Information section. Please email questions or comments to Rosemary Franklin at [franklinr@michigan.gov](mailto:franklinr@michigan.gov).

## PCR testing for pertussis diagnosis

CDC has issued guidance on best practices in using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for diagnosis of pertussis. In addition to addressing proper testing criteria, timing, specimen collection, the guidance also discusses recommended measures to avoid contamination of clinical specimens with PCR-detectable B. pertussis DNA from some pertussis vaccines (these include Pentacel®, Daptacel®, and Adacel®). These measures include preparing and administering vaccines in areas separate from pertussis specimen collection, avoiding contamination of environmental surfaces when preparing vaccines, and following basic infection control practices. The complete CDC guidance is attached and similar information is posted at: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-pcr-bestpractices.html>

## Specimen collection videos from CDC

CDC recently released two training videos for pertussis specimen collection. The videos illustrate the appropriate collection and handling techniques for nasopharyngeal swab and aspirate procedures. Videos in English and Spanish are currently available on the CDC Pertussis website: [www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html).

## CDC issues new guidance for providers

- [Chart of Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines](#)
- [Conditions Commonly Misperceived as Contraindications to Vaccination](#)

## Flu prevention in labor and delivery

The CDC released [updated guidance for preventing influenza in labor and delivery settings](#)

## Monograph on Tdap vaccination strategies

The Joint Commission's Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation released [Tdap Vaccination Strategies for Adolescents and Adults, Including Health Care Personnel: Strategies from Research and Practice](#) to help healthcare organizations of all types improve Tdap vaccination rates.

## New Binational Immunization Schedule available

A new 2011 Binational Schedule has been posted on the CDC website. Side-by-side presentation of recommended vaccines in Mexico and the United States helps health care providers identify vaccines needed by children now in the U.S. who received some vaccines in Mexico.

## ACIP statements

Detailed recommendations for using vaccines are available from ACIP statements and the 2009 Red Book. Guidance regarding the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System form is available online ([www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov)) or by telephone (800- 822-7967).

*Thanks for all that you do to keep families safe  
from vaccine-preventable diseases!*

Posted at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)  
under Provider Information – 3/15/11

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