

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

SYPHILIS

GIARDIASIS

HIV

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2017



## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was created on August 10, 1993 under the *Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of Section 1928* of the *Social Security Act*. The VFC Program has been operational since August 1, 1994 and Michigan has participated since 1995.

One of the primary goals of the VFC Program is to offer comprehensive medical care to children 18 years of age and younger through the provision of quality immunization services in the medical home. Other benefits include:

- Offering convenient, client-centered immunization services
- Increasing the likelihood of children beginning the immunization series as scheduled and remaining up-to-date
- Offering the provider the ability to order all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) free of charge\*
- Increasing clients' protection against vaccine preventable diseases

*\*Vaccine is free of charge to providers for administration to eligible children*

### Who is eligible for the VFC Program?

Children less than 19 years of age are eligible to receive vaccines through the VFC Program if they are:

Enrolled in Medicaid

Uninsured (have no health insurance at all)

Underinsured (have private health insurance which does not cover immunizations)

American Indian or Alaskan Native

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) is looking for additional providers to join the VFC Program. If you are interested in becoming a VFC Provider, or would like more information, contact the SCDPH Immunization Program at (989) 758-3840.

### References:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/about/index.html>

## **SYPHILIS**

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium, *Treponema pallidum*. It is divided into stages, primary, secondary, latent and tertiary. There are different signs and symptoms associated with each stage. Most of the time syphilis is diagnosed by a blood test.

### **SYMPTOMS**

The average time between exposure to syphilis and the start of the first symptom is 21 days, but can range from 10 to 90 days. Syphilis typically follows a progression of stages that can last for weeks, months, or even years. Syphilis, in its primary stage, has the appearance of a single chancre, but there may be multiple sores. The chancre is usually firm, round and painless. It appears at the location where syphilis entered the body. The chancre lasts 3 to 6 weeks and heals regardless of whether a person is treated or not. If the infected person does not receive adequate treatment, the infection progresses to the secondary stage. The secondary stage is characterized by skin rashes, however, may include fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches and fatigue. The symptoms of secondary syphilis will go away with or without treatment. However, without adequate treatment, the infection will progress to the latent and possibly tertiary stage of disease.

### **COMMUNICABILITY**

Syphilis is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with a syphilitic sore, known as a chancre. Transmission of syphilis can occur during vaginal, anal or oral sex. Pregnant women with syphilis can transmit the infection to their unborn child.

### **TREATMENT**

The recommended treatment for syphilis in its primary, secondary or early latent stage is Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units administered intramuscularly in a single dose. The recommended treatment for late latent syphilis or latent syphilis of unknown duration is Benzathine penicillin G 7.2 million units total, administered as 3 doses of 2.4 million units administered intramuscularly each, at weekly intervals. Options for non-pregnant patients who are allergic to penicillin are available.

Currently Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of penicillin G Benzathine in the United States, continues to experience a manufacturing delay of this product. Until the shortage resolves, there is an alternate treatment regime for early latent and late latent syphilis patients and non-symptomatic syphilis partners. The patients and partners in the aforementioned sentence will be treated with doxycycline 100mg orally twice daily for 14 or 28 days depending on the diagnosis.

Persons treated for syphilis must abstain from sexual contact with new partners until the syphilis sores are completely healed. Persons diagnosed with syphilis must notify their sex partners so they can also be tested and receive treatment if necessary.

### **PREVENTION**

Correct and consistent use of latex condoms can reduce the risk of syphilis when the infected area or site of potential exposure is protected. The best way to avoid transmission of syphilis, and other sexually transmitted diseases, is to abstain from sexual contact or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected.

### **REFERENCES**

Resource: [www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis](http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis)

## GIARDIASIS

Giardiasis is a diarrheal disease caused by the microscopic parasite *Giardia*. *Giardia* parasites live in the intestines of people and animals. Before the microscopic parasites are passed in stool, they become encased inside a hard shell called cysts, which allows the parasites to survive outside of the host for months. When a human or animal ingests the cysts, the shell dissolves and the *Giardia* are released. *Giardia* can be found in every region of the U.S. and around the world.

### **SYMPTOMS**

Diarrhea

Gas or flatulence

Greasy stool that can float

Stomach or abdominal cramps

Upset stomach or nausea

Dehydration

Fatigue

Some people with a *Giardia* infection have no symptoms, but can spread infection via their stool.

### **COMMUNICABILITY**

Infection occurs when you accidentally ingest the parasite cysts. Symptoms appear 1-3 weeks after ingestion and can last for 2-6 weeks. *Giardia* can be spread by: Swallowing contaminated water (rivers, lakes, wells, swimming pools or affected municipal water systems), eating contaminated food (infected food handler or raw food rinsed with contaminated water) and person-to-person contact with infected person's stool through diaper changing or anal sex.

### **TREATMENT**

When symptoms are severe doctors will usually treat giardiasis with oral medications such as: Metronidazole (Flagyl) or Tinidazole (Tindamax). Some cases of giardiasis may resolve without treatment.

### **PREVENTION**

Wash hands properly after using bathroom or changing diapers

Wash hands properly before eating and preparing food

Avoid ingesting water that may be contaminated

Avoid eating food that may be contaminated. Proper cooking of food will kill giardia

Practice safe sex. Use a condom if engaging in anal sex

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## HIV

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It is the virus that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or AIDS. Unlike some other viruses, the human body can't get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment. So once you get HIV, you have it for life.

HIV attacks the body's immune system making the person more likely to get other infections or infection-related cancers.

### SYMPTOMS

#### **Stage 1: Acute HIV infection**

Within *2 to 4 weeks* after infection with HIV, people may experience a flu-like illness, which may last for a few weeks. This is the body's natural response to infection.

#### **Stage 2: Clinical latency (HIV inactivity or dormancy)**

This period is sometimes called *asymptomatic HIV infection* or *chronic HIV infection*. People may not have any symptoms or get sick during this time. For people who aren't taking medicine to treat HIV, this period can last a decade or longer, but some may progress through this phase faster.

#### **Stage 3: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)**

AIDS is the most severe phase of HIV infection. People with AIDS have such badly damaged immune systems that they get an increasing number of severe illnesses called opportunistic illnesses. Common symptoms of AIDS include chills, fever, sweats, swollen lymph glands, weakness and weight loss.

### COMMUNICABILITY

Only certain body fluids—blood, semen (*cum*), pre-seminal fluid (*pre-cum*), rectal fluids, vaginal fluids and breast milk from a person who has HIV can transmit HIV. These fluids must come in contact with a mucous membrane or damaged tissue or be directly injected into the bloodstream (from a needle or syringe) for transmission to occur. Mucous membranes are found inside the rectum, vagina, penis and mouth. **HIV IS NOT SPREAD THROUGH SALIVA.**

### TREATMENT

No effective cure currently exists, but with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. Antiretroviral therapy (ART), if taken the right way, every day, can dramatically prolong the lives of many people infected with HIV; keep them healthy and greatly lower their chance of infecting others. Today, someone diagnosed with HIV and treated before the disease is far advanced, can live nearly as long as someone who does not have HIV.

### PREVENTION

Today, more tools than ever are available to prevent HIV, including abstinence (no sex), limiting the number of sexual partners, never sharing needles, using condoms the right way every time when having sex, and taking advantage of newer medicines such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), if able. If you are living with HIV, there are many actions you can take to prevent passing it to others. The most important is taking medicines to treat HIV the right way, every day. They can keep you healthy for many years and greatly reduce your chance of transmitting HIV to others.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE  
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY  
FOR THE QUARTER  
01/01/2017 –03/31/2017**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	41
CAMPYLOBACTER	4
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	299
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	2
FLU LIKE DISEASE	4573
GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS	3460
GIARDIASIS	1
GONORRHEA	86
HEAD LICE	33
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	1
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS C CHRONIC	26
INFLUENZA	1065
LEGIONELLOSIS	0
MENINGITIS-ASEPTIC	1
MENINGITIS-BACTERIAL OTHER	1
MUMPS	0
MYCOBACTERIUM	0
PERTUSSIS	0
RABIES-ANIMAL	0
SALMONELLOSIS	1
SHIGELLOSIS	0
SHINGLES	1
STREP THROAT	34
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIA, INVASIVE	7
SYPHILLIS-LATE LATENT	0
TUBERCULOSIS	0
VZ INFECTION, UNSPECIFIED	1
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	1
ZIKA	0

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE YTD  
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY  
01/01/2017-03/31/2017**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	41
CAMPYLOBACTER	4
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	299
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	2
FLU LIKE DISEASE	4573
GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS	3460
GIARDIASIS	1
GONORRHEA	86
HEAD LICE	33
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	1
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS C CHRONIC	26
INFLUENZA	1065
LEGIONELLOSIS	0
MENINGITIS-ASEPTIC	1
MENINGITIS-BACTERIAL OTHER	1
MUMPS	0
MYCOBACTERIUM	0
PERTUSSIS	0
RABIES-ANIMAL	0
SALMONELLOSIS	1
SHIGELLOSIS	0
SHINGLES	1
STREP THROAT	34
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIA, INVASIVE	7
SYPHILLIS-LATE LATENT	0
TUBERCULOSIS	0
VZ INFECTION, UNSPECIFIED	1
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	1
ZIKA	0



**Saginaw County Department of Public Health**  
**1600 N. Michigan Avenue**  
**Saginaw, MI 48602**

Please visit our website at [www.saginawpublichealth.org](http://www.saginawpublichealth.org)

This newsletter is provided to all Saginaw County healthcare providers, hospitals, schools, local colleges, universities, urgent care facilities and local media centers.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail please submit your e-mail address to: [sellison@saginawcounty.com](mailto:sellison@saginawcounty.com)

Articles for this newsletter are written and researched by the following members of the Personal and Preventive Health Services Division: Tawnya Simon, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.A., Susie Garlick, R.N., Kemberly Parham, R.N., M.S.N.