LOCAL SNAPSHOT: LEAD TESTING IN CLINTON COUNTY

NYS Public Health Law and Regulations require health care providers to obtain a blood lead test for all children at 12 and 24 months of age, regardless of risk. Lead exposure risk should also be assessed at each well visit for all children aged 6 months to 6 years. According to data obtained from NYSIIS, in Clinton County only 73.02% of one year olds and 73.79% of two year olds were tested for blood lead levels (BLL) in 2017. In the first half of 2018, 72.67% of one year olds and 74.25% of two year olds were tested (see Figure 1). While less than 1% of children tested in Clinton County in 2017-18 had an elevated BLL, universal testing remains vital in the identification of any children that may have been exposed to lead.

In addition, Federal Law requires that all Medicaid eligible children be tested for lead at one and two years of age. In Clinton County, the lowest percentage of children tested are those with Medicaid or Fidelis Care Insurance. The LeadCare® II point-of-care testing system allows for blood lead levels to be checked quickly in the office, with results available in three minutes. If a child’s capillary sample results in elevated lead levels, a venous sample should be drawn to confirm the level.

Figure 1. Percentage of Children Tested for Lead at One and Two Years of Age, Clinton County, 2017 & 2018*

Elevated levels should be reported to the child’s county of residence. In Clinton County, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program offers in-home education to parents regarding lead hazards and prevention of lead poisoning. An EPA-certified Lead Assessor is also available to sample homes when a child is identified with elevated blood lead levels. As part of this program, CCHD reviews all blood lead levels reported through NYSIIS. In any cases of BLL >5mcg/dL, patients are contacted and education is provided on next steps to prevent any further lead poisoning, diet considerations to help lower lead levels, and environmental controls, such as how to clean effectively for lead dust. CCHD also provides case management to children with elevated BLLs of >10mcg/dL until the BLL is <10mcg/dL for two consecutive tests. For questions, contact CCHD at 518-565-4848 or visit www.clintonhealth.org/leadpoisoning.

2018-19 INFLUENZA VACCINATION


- Vaccine viruses included in the 2018-19 U.S. trivalent influenza vaccines will be an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (Victoria lineage). Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these three viruses and an additional influenza B virus vaccine, a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (Yamagata lineage).
- Patients with a history of egg allergy of any severity may receive any licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate influenza vaccine (IIV, RIV4, or LAIV4).
- Age indications for Afluria Quadrivalent (IIV4) expanded from ≥18 years to ≥5 years, and Fluarix Quadrivalent (IIV4) from ≥3 years to ≥6 months.
- LAIV4 (Flumist Quadrivalent) is approved as an option for those for whom it is appropriate. While the ACIP and CDC have expressed no preference for any flu shot or the Flumist, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the flu shot as the best choice for children for the 2018-2019 flu season (https://bit.ly/1JkFJll).

CCHD Immunization Clinics, open to the public, are offered weekly during business hours, and once per month in the evening. Vaccines are offered to adults, as well as children without a medical provider. CCHD is unable to administer vaccines to children with a primary care provider. Pricing varies depending on insurance status; patients may call 518-565-4848 for current pricing and to schedule an appointment.

CCHD’s Clinton County Recreational Trails Map is now available. The map highlights paths and trails that are easy to find and easy to use. Look for a copy in your October 2018 Partner Nurse Packet. For additional copies, call 518-565-4993.
Are your patients having difficulty getting to medical appointments? Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) is open to the public and covers all of Clinton County. There are a number of different types of fares and passes available, with most rides costing $1 to $2. Patients may view the bus schedule at www.clintoncountypublictransit.com. Residents may call CCPT at 518-561-1452 the day before or up to two weeks ahead of a medical appointment to have the bus pick them up or drop them off within ¼ mile of a bus route. All CCPT buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts, but riders must be able to manage roadside pick-up (i.e., buses cannot go into personal driveways and drivers cannot assist riders to the bus). Individuals with hearing impairments may contact CCPT by using the TDD relay by calling 1-800-662-1220.

Clinton County Vector-Borne Disease Update

From January 1 to August 31, 2018 43 cases of Lyme disease and 1 case of Anaplasmosis were reported in Clinton County. Although temperatures are beginning to drop, patients and providers should remain vigilant. Adult ticks emerge in the fall, peaking in October through November. Ticks can remain active when the ground temperature is above 45°F. During the winter months, ticks may also be present in firewood, especially when stacked near areas inhabited by deer, mice and other rodents. Tick kits have been included in CCHD’s October 2018 Partner Nurse Program materials, distributed to provider offices to disseminate to patients. For additional resources, call CCHD’s Health Planning & Promotion (HPP) Division at 518-565-4993.

From January 1 to September 13, 2018, 1,261 WNV-positive mosquito pools were identified in NYS. During this same time period, 24 human and 4 equine cases of WNV infection were reported in NYS. In addition, 3 WNV-positive mosquito pools have been found in Clinton County. The incubation period for WNV disease is typically 2-6 days, ranging 2-14 days, or several weeks in immunocompromised patients. Providers should continue to consider WNV in any person with a febrile or acute neurologic illness with recent exposure to mosquitoes.

Local Snapshot: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination in Clinton County

As of August 23, 2018, only 56.6% (2,941) of the 5,215 adolescent children 13 to 17 years of age enrolled in Clinton County pediatric practices have been appropriately vaccinated against HPV (2 or 3 vaccine series). This percentage is well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80% of adolescents aged 13 to 15 years receiving two or three doses of HPV vaccine.

According to NYSIIS, in our community there were 1,316 missed opportunities to provide vaccine to this group. Missed opportunities are times when the patient was in the office for an appointment but did not receive vaccines as recommended.

Current recommendations for HPV vaccination include:

- A two-dose schedule is recommended for adolescents starting the schedule at ages 9 to 14 years, with only two vaccines at least 6 months apart required to complete the series.
- Adolescents aged 9 to 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart will require a third dose. The third dose should be given 6-12 months after the first dose to complete the series.
- A three-dose schedule is recommended for teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 to 26 years. Under this schedule, the second dose of HPV vaccine should be given 1-2 months after the first dose, and the third dose should be given 6 months after the first dose.
- Three doses are recommended for patients aged 9 to 26 years with certain immunocompromising conditions.

Clinician information, frequently asked questions and helpful parent talking points that can be used to minimize missed opportunities are available at www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/index.html.

Private Well Water Testing: Update

To support homeowners with private wells, CCHD began a trial program in late 2017 offering free total coliform testing, performed at a local laboratory. The program was renewed for another season in June 2018. As of September 1, 2018, CCHD received an additional 63 requests for drinking water analysis. This year’s sampling also included nitrate sampling for homes with children less than 6 months of age. CCHD staff collected 43 bacteriological samples; 30% of samples indicated the presence of total coliform bacteria; no samples were found to contain E. coli bacteria.

Funding is available for approximately 50 more samples to be analyzed in 2018. For program details residents may visit www.clintonhealth.org/wells. Total coliform bacteria is naturally present in the environment and is used as an indicator of the sanitary condition of a well. Although total coliform bacteria alone is usually not illness causing, its presence indicates that other harmful bacteria, such as E. coli, may be able to get into the well. Homeowners who received total coliform positive results were informed by the lab to take steps to disinfect their wells.

CCHD recommends providers:

- Actively engage patients and their families in discussions around their drinking water supply,
- Encourage patients with private water sources to properly maintain their water supply, and
- Refer patients with questions about their water supply to CCHD’s Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Division at 518-565-4870 or www.clintonhealth.org/wells.