

# MCFH Coalition ENewsletter



Maternal, Child & Family Health Coalition

[www.stl-mcfhc.org](http://www.stl-mcfhc.org)

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### **National Influenza Vaccination Week**

November 26 through December 2 is National Influenza Vaccination Week. While vaccination is not universally recommended for all age groups, there is a growing body of information that suggests lower rates of influenza when additional populations beyond the recommended groups receive the vaccination. For example, several cities have run immunization programs that immunized school-age children. When this occurred there was a reduction in the incidence of flu in the city where the mass immunizations took place. Additional studies indicate lower influenza rates in long-term care facilities when health care providers and staff increased their immunization rates.

Such information highlights the importance of health care providers and personnel securing their immunization for influenza. Startling data from a national survey in 2006 revealed that health care providers and personnel had only vaccination coverage of 42%.

The Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition, the St. Louis Immunization Coalition and the St. Louis Regional Flu Task Force highlighted the importance of immunization for influenza at the September Coalition meeting. At this meeting, Dr. Robert Belshi, guest presenter, indicated that only 15% of pregnant women receive their flu immunization. The partners encourage providers

promote their clients receiving their immunizations, especially pregnant women and the providers themselves should get their flu immunization.

November 27 is designated as Children's Flu Vaccination Day. Materials for this day and Influenza Vaccination Week are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw07.htm>

Detailed information about influenza vaccination is available through *MMWR*, "Prevention and Control of Influenza" available at this web location: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>

### **Hot Topic: Bright Futures – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Release**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is about to release its third edition of *Bright Futures*. Due out any day, *Bright Futures* is an excellent resource developed through an extensive partnership of Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the American Academy of Pediatrics with support from countless medical and maternal, child health associations and organizations.

This resource provides comprehensive information to assist health care providers in guiding parents and guardians in safeguarding and promoting the health of their children. It provides recommendations for routine healthcare, anticipatory guidance, psychosocial factors that impact health, and child development information for children from birth through age 21.

The new edition will have a different structure that includes a section that provides in-depth information on key themes that are common to all ages of child and youth development. Two of those themes include mental health and healthy weight.

While this resource was originally developed to support those providing "health supervision", it is an excellent resource for families, healthcare workers, home visitation personnel, schools and those interested in the health of children.

[www.brightfutures.aap.org](http://www.brightfutures.aap.org)  
<http://www.aap.org/NACH/Flood.pdf>

### **New HPV Web Site Launched**

Missouri HPV Education Coalition in conjunction with three Missouri Foundations has launched a new HPV Web Site specific to Missouri. The site provides information about HPV and the vaccine. The site also allows site visitors to find the closest clinic that provides the vaccine.

As the site indicates, "You've heard the news that the FDA has approved the first HPV vaccine for girls and women ages 9–26. And you may have heard that the CDC recommends that all 11–13 year old girls get vaccinated." As a provider, you have also heard about the funding from Missouri Foundation for Health that makes the vaccine available to this age-group in the St. Louis region. Now you have a tool to help you locate a clinic or health care provider to connect your

clients with the vaccine!

<http://www.mohpv.org/>

### **National Children's Study Comes to St. Louis**

The National Institutes of Health has selected the city of St. Louis and Macoupin County, Ill., as sites for the National Children's Study, the largest study of child and human health ever conducted in the United States. The sites are among the 22 new study centers added to the National Children's Study, which will follow a representative sample of 100,000 children from before birth to age 21. Saint Louis University School of Public Health is partnering on the project with Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and St. Louis Battelle Memorial Institute.

The extensive population-based study looks at the health and development of children by following them from before birth to adulthood.

### **MCFH Coalition Update**

Mapping a Course to a Healthier Community for Women, Children and Their Families is moving into the second phase—prioritization. Nearly 100 providers and 70 community members provided over 1000 comments on what is needed to have a healthier community. Those comments have been compiled and synthesized into key themes. Monday, November 26 and Thursday November 29, providers will have the opportunity to rank the priorities from these key themes. Additional meetings with community participants on November 29 and December 4 will garner their ranking. Locations for these meetings will be forthcoming. Watch your email for details.

**HOLD THE DATE!** Dr. Will Ross will be the keynote speaker at the Coalition's Annual Membership meeting, December 20 at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Ross has become a tireless advocate for quality prenatal care and nutrition. He will discuss emerging theories on prenatal nutrition's link to later in life health consequences. Members will be invited to vote on a slate of proposed board members, current officers and policy positions for 2008. There is still time to become a member by clicking on <https://web.memberclicks.com/mc/quickForm/viewForm.do?orgId=mcfhc&formId=23617>.

### **Web Resources**

#### **1. From CDC's Seasonal Flu Web Section**

The section titled Info for Health Professionals offers links to the following:

\* Free Flu Materials:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery>

\* Flu Activity & Surveillance:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

\* Flu Vaccine Bulletins (from 2006):

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flubulletin.htm>

\* Flu References & Resources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/references.htm>

#### **2. Bright Futures – [www.brightfutures.org](http://www.brightfutures.org)**

3. To Order Bright Futures – [www.aap.org/bst](http://www.aap.org/bst)
4. The National Children’s Study Splash Page – <http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>

**MCFH Coalition Welcomes New and Returning Members:**

**New** – Visiting Nurse Association, Louise Flick, Belinda James, Jeff Mayer,  
**Returning** – Peggy Barnhart, Bill Dotson, Center for Speech and Hearing, Alison Gee, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Center, SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, St. Louis County DOH,  
**Sponsoring Member** – Deaconess Foundation

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