SCHOOL BASED IMMUNIZATION: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE EASY

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Health Heroes, Inc.
HEALTH HEROES

- National school-located community immunizer
- Synopsis of our birth
- Reducing influenza related morbidity and mortality
- Understanding community needs to provide solutions
- Coordination with public health and education departments
- Education of school officials and parents
- Cold chain technology
Influenza: An Age-Old Disease, A Disease for All Ages

- Epidemics described since 12th century
- Many animal species vulnerable
- 1933: Influenza A virus isolated
- 1934: Virus transmissibility confirmed
- 1937: First vaccine research
- 1944: Vaccine licensure
- 8th leading cause of death in the U.S.
INFLUENZA: THE DISEASE AND ITS COMPLICATIONS
CLINICAL DESCRIPTION/SYMPTOMS

- Incubation period
- Abrupt onset
- Infectivity and shedding
- Transmission
Severity of Disease in Children

- Common complications
- Non-respiratory complications
- Physician visits
- Hospitalization
- Death
Why Target Healthy Children?

- Children acquire and shed virus more frequently than adults
- Role in transmission in daycare, school, and households
- Socioeconomic effects of influenza on children and contacts
- Presence of children the most important determinant of influenza within the family
- The Japanese experience
COVERAGE RATES FOR TARGETED GROUPS 2014-2015

- All people >6 mos of age 47%
- 6 mos-17 yrs 59%
- 5 yrs-17 yrs 56%
- 18 yrs and above 44%
OBSTACLES TO OPTIMAL COVERAGE

- Missed opportunities
- Short season (or perception of same)
- Lack of awareness
- Vaccine misconceptions
- Removal of barriers
- Fluctuations in vaccine supply
OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Extending the vaccination season
- Educating parents, dispelling myths
- Seizing opportunities
- Providing additional venues for immunization
- Universal school requirement
Vaccination of Schoolchildren and the Downstream Benefits

- Decreased school absences
- Avoidance of targeted school closings
- Decreased sibling illness rates
- Decreased lost workdays for parents
- Decreased rates of illness in the community
- Decreased direct and indirect medical/economic costs
SUCCESS LEVERS

- Public Health Coordination
- Department of Education Coordination
- School Partnership
- School Nurse Partnership
- Health Hero
PREVENTION OF INFLUENZA AMONG INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN IS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY!

EDUCATE – ADVocate INNOCULATE