



IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE DISPARITIES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REPORT

Get Vaccinated Ohio – Deliverable Objective D2B

December 17,2021

Champaign Health District

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Overview

Purpose

The Get Vaccinated Ohio Public Health Initiative (GV) works to improve components of the immunization delivery in Ohio; more fully immunize infants, children, and adolescents; improve immunization on-time rates in the private and public sector; and limit vaccine preventable disease.

As part of this initiative, GV grant agencies were required to develop an implementation plan to address the following variables:

- Immunization status of under-immunized children and adolescents who experience significant racial or socioeconomic indicators in Champaign County,
- Immunization status of under-immunized children and adolescents in areas where higher percentages of parents defer or postpone immunizations in Champaign County,
- Immunization status of under-immunized students in schools with higher incidence of incomplete immunizations and reasons of conscience in Champaign County.

Responsible Parties

The Immunization Coverage Implementation Plan was created by the Champaign Health District (CHD) Director of Nursing (DON). Strategies listed in the plan are to be carried out by the DON and CHD immunization staff including nurses and ancillary staff.

Timeline

The Immunization Coverage Implementation Plan will be completed before 12/31/2021. Strategies in the plan will be implemented after 1/1/2022, with each individual strategy listing a more specific timeline. Plans may need to be altered due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. The immunization clinic at CHD is currently open but was temporarily closed in order to focus on contact tracing and case investigation and to administer the COVID vaccine.

Immunization Improvement Strategies

Variable 1:

CHD will address immunization status of under-immunized children and adolescents who experience significant racial or socioeconomic indicators in Champaign County.

Parents of uninsured or underinsured children are more likely to defer immunization because of cost. Per the Immunization Disparities report, 5.1% of children (under 19 years of age) are underinsured in Champaign County, compared to 4.9% in Ohio. There are now 3 providers in Champaign County who are enrolled in the VFC (Vaccines for Children) program, the Champaign Health District, Urbana Family Medicine and Pediatrics, and Memorial Primary Care. Memorial Primary Care recently applied for and was approved to be a VFC provider. VFC provides vaccines at no cost to children.

Parents and children living in poverty are more likely to defer immunizations based on cost. Per the Immunization Disparities Report, high-risk children with higher levels of poverty may reside within the Urbana City School District where 13.8% of the students ages 5-17 live at the poverty level. With the COVID-19 pandemic, all students in Champaign County are approved for free and reduced-price meal

benefits. Due to this evidence, Urbana City Schools have been chosen as a target area for CHD to improve immunization education and availability.

CHD has worked closely with the Urbana City Schools to increase availability of immunizations to children in the district. CHD staff works with the Urbana City School nurses to determine the best ways to make immunizations available to their students. CHD offers after hours back to school immunization clinics during the time of the district's new year open houses. At these clinics, CHD accepts insurance and provides VFC for those who qualify. CHD immunization staff offered these services for the current school year and plan to do again for the upcoming 2022/2023 school year.

Variable 2:

CHD will address immunization status of under-immunized children and adolescents in areas where higher percentages of parents defer or postpone immunizations in Champaign County.

The Immunization Disparities Report demonstrated that 3 out of the 5 school districts in Champaign County have above the average percent (94.7%) of pupils with all required immunizations. The 2 school districts below average are Graham Local Schools and West Liberty- Salem Local Schools. Graham Local Schools have 9.9% of their students without all required immunizations. West Liberty- Salem Local Schools have 6.4% without all required immunizations.

Not only does the Graham Local School district have the lowest average percent of pupils with all required immunizations (90.1%) in the county, it is also located in an area that is identified as a COVID-19 vaccine desert. CHD participated in a COVID-19 vaccination event in the spring of 2021 at Graham Local Schools. This community event attracted many parents and students, CHD advertised the re-opening of our immunization clinics for all vaccines including required school immunizations. CHD staff will continue to work with this school district to hold on site vaccine clinics in conjunction with school activities during the upcoming school year. St. Paris Pharmacy provides childhood immunizations and is located less than 5 miles from all the schools in the district. When a student needs an immunization, the school nurses at Graham provide a letter to the parent/guardian with information on what immunizations are needed and contact information for both CHD and St. Paris Pharmacy.

West Liberty-Salem Local Schools have invited CHD to participate in their Kindergarten screenings for previous school years to provide immunizations to prospective students in need. CHD staff were unable to participate in kindergarten screening this school year as they had a previous engagement. CHD will work with the West Liberty-Salem School District to plan an onsite clinic in conjunction with kindergarten screenings and open houses in the future. The district has a school-based health center in conjunction with Community Health and Wellness Partners. Prior to the 2021/2022 school year, a week-long vaccination clinic was held in this clinic for students in the district.

CHD immunization staff held on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics at all the Champaign County school districts during the 2020/2021 school year except for West-Liberty Salem Local. West-Liberty Salem Local contracted with a pharmacy for this service. CHD staff also held an on-site immunization clinic at Triad Local during middle school and high school orientation. Required 7th and 12th grade immunizations were available at this event. CHD will continue to work with all the schools in Champaign County to be available as needed.

Variable 3:

CHD will address immunization status of under-immunized students in schools with higher incidence of incomplete immunizations and reasons of conscience in Champaign County.

Groups with philosophical or religious objections tend to delay or defer immunizations for children and adolescents. Per the immunization coverage disparities report, two out of the five school districts in Champaign County have above average (2.4%) of pupils who have a reason of conscience or religious objection. These school districts are Mechanicsburg Exempted Village and West Liberty-Salem Local Schools.

To address this variable, CHD Immunization Department composed a letter to parents/guardians of the students at all the county's school districts in the spring of 2021. Along with the letter, CHD included educational information about required immunizations. This information was sent to the parents/guardians of all the students in the county schools at both the end of the school year and beginning of the next. CHD Immunization Staff will continue work with the school nurses to coordinate sending these letters to all students going into kindergarten, seventh, and twelfth grades in the fall of 2022.

CHD immunization staff will continue to work with all the school districts in Champaign County to immunize infants, children, and adolescents more fully; improve immunization on-time rates, and limit vaccine preventable diseases. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the immunization staff at CHD have had to alter clinic operations to provide COVID-19 vaccines and focus on contact tracing and case investigation. The staff adapt to meet the needs of Champaign County residents and plans are altered as needed.