

Maryland Elementary School Influenza Vaccination Project

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How to Give Kids Shots in the Nose



- Background
- Models
- Results
- Lessons Learned

Background

2005-2006 Influenza Season:

- Two school-based pilot projects conducted
- Results - decreased student and staff absenteeism due to influenza-like illnesses:
 - Directly, in schools where the kids received the vaccine; and
 - Indirectly, in middle and high schools (Perhaps due to decreased risk of exposure to sick elementary school-aged children).

Background

April 2006 Health Officers recommend:

- Statewide school influenza vaccination project
- Targeted to 5-11 yr. olds (estimated 500,000)
- No charge to parents
- No charge to local school or health dept.
- Exercise mass vaccination in school setting
- Begin 2006 Flu Season

Are You Kidding?

Background

- Aug. 2006 MedImmune, State, CDC agree to support the project
- All 24 local health depts. agree to participate
- Sept. 2006 Governor announced project

Calvert Model

- Students vaccinated at school site
- Non-school hours
- Parents notified to bring student & sign consent



Calvert Model

- Similar to mass flu clinic
- No loss of classroom time
- Staffing issues
- Very impatient children



Carroll Model

- Students vaccinated during school hours
- Students escorted in small groups
- Parents sign consent form in advance



Carroll Model

- Students in class
- Limited staffing needed at clinic
- Loss of 20 min. of class time
- Distribution / Tracking of consent forms
- Verifying consent forms



What's your mother's
name?

Mommy

Results

- Distributed more than 114,000 influenza doses
- Influenza clinics held at 600 schools statewide
- Flu vaccine provided to more than 100 private providers to give at no cost to 5-11 yr. olds
- Some counties vaccinated more than 40% of 5-11 year olds in the school setting

Lessons Learned

- Private provider resistance
- More needed to get their support and cooperation earlier
- Parents call doctor to ask what they should do
- Future impact?
- “Who do I send my flu vaccine bill to?”



Lessons Learned

- Advance planning is critical
- Development of clear user-friendly materials
- Attention focused on school system
- Respect school nurses



Lessons Learned

- Nursing and parental volunteers needed
- Some parents did resist and spoke out
- Parents like free vaccine
- Vaccine ordering estimates very important



“No shots in the nose, please”

