

# Role of Schools & School Nurses in flu vaccine delivery

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## Flu IZ through Schools

- Benefits & opportunities
- Barriers
- School Nurses
- What's possible now

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## Benefits & Opportunities

- access to 97% of school-age youth <sup>1</sup>
  - 11% in parochial & private schools <sup>2</sup>
- age-based infrastructure
- 14 states: mandated ratio pupils/SN <sup>3</sup>
- Sept. to May accessibility
- some access to parents/family

<sup>1</sup> US Census, 2007

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Educational Statistics 2008, actual data for 2005

<sup>3</sup> Taliaferro, V. (2005, July) NASN Newsletter.

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## Go where they are.

- 5-17\* year olds: 53.2M <sup>1</sup>
- enrolled in school: 51.7M: 97.2% <sup>1</sup>
    - (estim) 26M: elementary (K-5/6) <sup>1</sup>
    - (estim) 26M: middle/high
    - parochial & private: 6.1 M: 11% <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Census 2007 Enrollment Status, 2007

<sup>2</sup> Nat'l Center for Education Statistics, 2008

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## Schools: access to parents



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## Flu Shots are easier....

- one dose for most students
- nasal spray easier than injections <sup>1</sup>
- public perception of high risks of flu
- public familiarity with flu vaccine

1 C. Mears, L. Sanders, E. Lawler. School flu immunization acceptability using intranasal vaccine, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Vol. 42, Is 2, Pages 26, Feb. 2008.

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## BUT...there are barriers

- decentralized authority
- NCLB: focus on testing
- 36 states: no pupil/SN mandates
- little to no funding for prevention
- under-served areas--few partnership op's

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## ...and more barriers.

- parent consent: paper intensive
- no mechanism for billing
- registry not always available or accessible
- school staff resistance
- cultural and language barriers

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## School Nurse's dream... Dream about...

...so today, we'll be  
vaccinating Jenny against  
measles, mumps and  
child-targeted television  
commercials.



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“...and obesity and  
asthma and  
bullying and family  
crises and child  
abuse and...”



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## Typical day in a high school

- Acute care: parent, MD, teacher
- Counseling re: possible pregnancy
- Teacher consultation
- Meeting: SAP, SST, IEP, 504...
- Health education class
- Condom teaching session
- Supervision: nursing/medical students

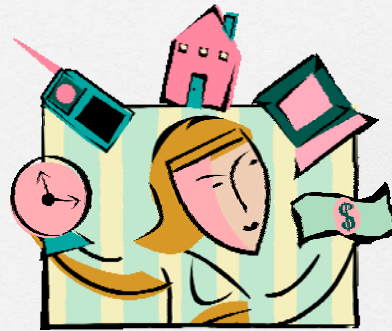
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## Dimensions of Role

- Direct services
- Screen/referral
- Health education
- Advocacy/policy
- Coordination



NASN Issue Brief: Role of the School Nurse, 2002.

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## 8 Component Model



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## Role in IZ Services

- Direct services
  - Assess eligibility for vaccines
  - Administer vaccines
- Coordination
  - Health Dept, Registry, et Al.
- Health education
  - Students, Families, Staff
- Collaboration
  - Medical assoc, IZ Coalition, PTAs, hospitals, HMOs



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## What would help?

- Sustained, stable funding
- Flu vaccine linked with “back to school”
- School nurse ratio 1:750
- Paper-less consent process
- Registry
- Mandate

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Lindley, MC et Al. The role of schools in strengthening delivery of new adolescent vaccinations, *Pediatrics*, 2008; 121; S46-S54.



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## What's possible now?

### Education of:

- school staff
- teachers
- parents/families

### Promotion methods:

- school bulletins, newsletters
- email blasts, auto-dialed messages
- publicizing science-based/"cool" websites
- peer-to-peer programs

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US Census. Table 1: Enrollment status of population 3 years old and over..., Oct. 2007.



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