



## **Strategies for Health Departments to Increase Adult Immunizations**

Vaccination rates for routinely recommended adult vaccines are low. Health departments are crucial to improving adult vaccination. The following are strategies, based on the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice published by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee,\* that health departments can implement to improve awareness and raise vaccination rates.

### **Determine community needs and vaccination capacity**

- Designate an adult immunization coordinator in your program who spends  $\geq$  50% of his or her time on adult immunization activities.
- Work with other health department services or clinics, and other community groups, to assess vaccination needs of local and/or state communities.
- Include adult immunization activities in your immunization program's priorities and planning.
- Devise and apply targeted strategies to address disparities in immunization coverage and access to vaccines.

### **Identify and address barriers to adult vaccination**

- Use 317 funds to purchase vaccines for administration to uninsured adults.
- Assist your health department in becoming an in-network provider.
- Work with providers to implement standing orders for immunizing adults in clinical practice.
- Encourage policy makers to develop policies that promote high vaccination rates and reduce immunization barriers for adult patients and their providers.
- Develop reminder/recall functionality in your immunization registry.
- Assist providers in utilizing patient assistance programs offered by some vaccine manufacturers for uninsured adults.

### **Provide outreach and education to providers and the public**

- Send messages out to your partners and adult provider groups, e.g., state chapters of medical, nursing and pharmacy professional organizations, promoting the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice, the adult immunization schedule, and other relevant adult immunization updates.
- Urge all providers serving adults to report adult vaccinations into your registry.
- Distribute CDC or program developed patient education and provider materials.
- Provide annual state-level adult immunization coverage rates to vaccine providers.

### **Develop and maintain partnerships with key stakeholders**

- Partner with pharmacies and community vaccinators to increase access to vaccines.
- Establish relationships with employers to promote vaccines to employees.
- Collaborate with community and faith-based leaders to promote immunizations for adults.
- Collaborate with public health programs that provide clinical services (e.g., sexually transmitted disease control programs, substance abuse treatment services, chronic disease prevention, etc.) to incorporate vaccine assessment and administration into their routine practices.
- Include adult immunization activities in existing immunization coalition work and meetings.

### **Top 4 low-cost strategies that you can start working on now**

- **Collaborate with other programs in your health department (i.e. chronic disease, STD clinics, etc.)**
- **Encourage reporting of adult vaccinations to registries**
- **Distribute CDC developed adult vaccine education materials**
- **Provide vaccine coverage rates to providers and/or provider organizations in your communities**

\*Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/standards/index.html>