

Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

October 12, 2017

2017 COMMISSION

Chair

Dianna Abney, MD, FAAP

Members

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David Blythe, MD, MPH

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Tiffany Tate, MHS

Sara Vazer, MD

Roseann Velez, DNP

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan, Chair Conway, and Chair Pendergrass:

In accordance with Health-General Article §18-214(k), the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (the Commission) is submitting this annual report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The Commission is charged with determining where community vaccine shortages exist, developing recommendations for equitable distribution of vaccines, making recommendations for how to increase immunizations, and studying and making recommendations about other vaccine-related issues.

STAFF

Kurt Seetoo, MPH

kurt.seetoo@maryland.gov

In Calendar Year 2017, the Commission has held three meetings to date. These meetings took place in March, June, and September. A fourth meeting will be scheduled for November. Several of our Commissioners have completed their term or have resigned for other reasons. The Commission is actively attempting to fill those positions.

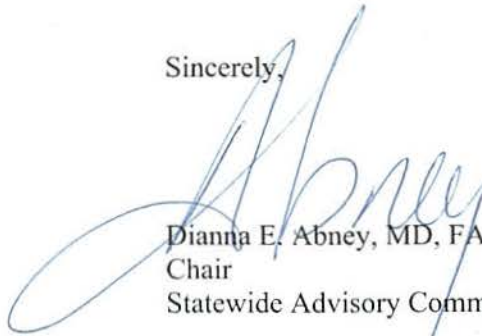
The Commission continues to focus on increasing the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rate among Maryland adolescents. This focus includes exploring ways to update patients on changes to HPV vaccine dosing, and encouraging Commission members to attend trainings on a Quality Improvement (QI) project conducted by the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have changed the HPV dosing schedule, which now recommends two doses separated by 6 to 12 months for children 9 to 14 years old, and a three-dose schedule for people 15 years old and older. The Commission has determined that the new schedule has been shared with clinicians by the Vaccines for Children Program and the AAP, and is exploring ways to get this information directly to parents. The aim of the QI project conducted by the Maryland Chapter of the AAP is to improve HPV vaccination rates in private practices. Commission members Dr. Dianna Abney and Dr. Anne Bailowitz, and Maryland AAP Chapter President Dr. Diana Fertsch, attended a training in Philadelphia where the lessons learned from the QI project were shared, and the Commission believes that some of these lessons may be useful in Maryland.

There continue to be outbreaks of vaccine preventable disease in the United States, and the Commission discussed the ongoing outbreaks in several states. Maryland has good immunization rates for most childhood vaccines. The Commission acknowledges the need for vigilance in the face of increasing vaccine hesitancy, and is reviewing materials and outreach methods aimed at increasing and maintaining vaccine rates. National, regional, and local strategies are being reviewed, with a focus on adapting strategies for use in Maryland and methods that can be successful with limited budgets. This process is in its early stages, and digital and broadcast messaging appears to be the most promising method so far.

There is much room for improvement in adult immunization rates in Maryland, and the Commission continues to look for ways to improve the immunization rates for adults in our state. The Commission is exploring ways to educate both the public and clinicians of the importance of adult immunizations. The Charles County Department of Health uses social media and traditional media formats to educate citizens, and created a short video on adult immunizations that they shared with the Commission.

Please accept this letter as the Commission's annual report for Calendar Year 2017. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-609-6901 or dianna.abney@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Dianna E. Abney, MD, FAAP
Chair

Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

cc: Webster Ye, JD, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary
Jinlene Chan, MD, Acting Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
David Blythe, MD, MPH, Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Sarah T. Albert MSAR #8248