



[www.vaccinateindiana.org](http://www.vaccinateindiana.org)



Indiana State  
Department of Health

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 2012

Contact: Sarah Strawbridge, Executive Director  
Indiana Immunization Coalition, Inc.  
317-628-7116 [director@vaccinateindiana.org](mailto:director@vaccinateindiana.org)

### **Indiana Organizations Stress Importance of Hepatitis B Vaccinations for Adults with Diabetes during National Diabetes Awareness Month**

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana – The Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) and the Indiana State Department of Health are encouraging all Hoosiers age 19 to 59 with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes to review their immunization records as part of National Diabetes Awareness Month. Organizations across the Nation are placing a special focus throughout November on promoting awareness of diabetes and the benefits of the Hepatitis B immunization for people with diabetes.

“People with diabetes have a higher risk of contracting Hepatitis B,” said State Health Commissioner Gregory N. Larkin, M.D. “Exposure to the infection can occur as a result of equipment that is shared between people who have assisted monitoring of blood glucose. While it is never recommended to share needles, becoming vaccinated provides the best protection against contracting Hepatitis B.”

Since 1996, a total of 29 outbreaks of Hepatitis B infection have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Twenty-five of these outbreaks involved adults with diabetes receiving assisted blood glucose monitoring. The Hepatitis Vaccines Work Group of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) evaluated the risk for Hepatitis B infection among all adults with diagnosed diabetes. Based on the Work Group’s findings, the ACIP now recommends that all previously unvaccinated adults aged 19 through 59 years with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes be vaccinated against Hepatitis B. It is recommended that these adults receive the vaccine as soon as possible after diagnosis of diabetes is made.

Hepatitis B infection can be transmitted by medical equipment that is contaminated with blood that is not visible to the unaided eye.

Hepatitis B vaccinations have been used in the United States since 1982 and extensive data supports the safety of the Hepatitis B vaccine in all age groups. Based on this information and the risk for diabetes patients, the ACIP recommends the Hepatitis B vaccination should be administered to unvaccinated adults with diabetes mellitus who are aged 19 through 59 years and at the discretion of the clinician for those 60 years and older.

People with diabetes should also ensure they are up-to-date on their influenza, pneumococcal, Tdap, MMR, varicella, and polio vaccines.

“The American Diabetes Association worked with the CDC on the immunization recommendation for people living with diabetes. Individuals should follow the CDC recommendations for immunization which includes Hepatitis B for people living with diabetes. This is a great reminder that people with diabetes, like the general public, need vaccinations to avoid infectious disease,” -- Jennifer Pferrer, the Executive Director of the Indiana Chapter of the American Diabetes Association.

For more information on the Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B Vaccine: <http://www.vaccinateindiana.org/hepatitisb>

Full list of disease incidence rates specific to Indiana from January 2012-September 2012:  
[www.vaccinateindiana.org/indianavpd](http://www.vaccinateindiana.org/indianavpd)

Resource: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a4.htm>

The Indiana Immunization Coalition, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve access and affordability of vaccines for the lifespan. The Indiana Immunization Coalition exists to reduce the spread of vaccine-preventable disease through immunization education, advocacy, promotion and statewide collaborative partnerships.

These materials were created by the Indiana Immunization Coalition, Inc. and were funded by the Indiana State Department of Health through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award No: 5H23IP522522-10).