

Report of ASTHO Immunization Activities Prepared for the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is a national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, as well as the 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy to promote excellence in state-based public health practice. Please visit <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Immunization/> for more information about ASTHO immunization initiatives.

Current ASTHO Immunization Initiatives:

Public Health/Pharmacy MOU - Since 2012, ASTHO and CDC have been assessing best practices for coordinating pandemic vaccination preparedness activities between public health programs and pharmacies. Successful strategies, tactics, and operational components, identified through stakeholder interviews and workshops, were incorporated into a template memorandum of understanding (MOU) (<http://www.astho.org/Infectious-Disease/Pandemic-Influenza/MOU-State-Pharmacy-Pandemic-Influenza-Vaccination-Campaign/>). The MOU is intended to formalize responsibilities between state-level public health programs and pharmacies during pandemic vaccination planning and response. ASTHO is now working with state public health programs and pharmacies to address program needs for implementing this template MOU where appropriate.

Immunization Information Systems (IIS) – In August 2014, ASTHO held a meeting regarding IIS interstate data exchange and brought together relevant state stakeholders from five key states to discuss barriers and identify potential solutions for multistate IIS interstate data sharing. As a result of the meeting, ASTHO, in coordination with The Network for Public Health Law, developed a template IIS interstate data sharing MOU (<http://www.astho.org/Public-Policy/Public-Health-Law/IIS-MOU/>). The MOU is currently being piloted with the states that attended the IIS meeting, but can be utilized by other interested states in the future. In addition, ASTHO and the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) have developed a joint community of practice forum for those who attended the IIS meeting in August to address policy barriers related to IIS interstate data sharing and work towards implementation of the MOU.

Adult Immunization - ASTHO is working to identify best practices among state health agencies with current adult immunization programs that provide vaccinations to uninsured adults. This project will both describe how states locate uninsured adult patients and identify providers that serve this population. The results of this project will be disseminated to state health agencies so they can learn about promising practices to increase immunization rates among uninsured adults.

Immunization Infrastructure – ASTHO conducted a survey of immunization program managers to help identify essential staff required to implement core components of an immunization program, outline potential staffing models for immunization programs, and define immunization program scalability in the event of an emergency situation such as pandemic influenza.

VFC Project – ASTHO conducted a survey of various stakeholders to assess the key considerations related to inclusion of pharmacies in the VFC program. The project explored opportunities and challenges surrounding pharmacy participation in VFC, current models of state-wide VFC programs with pharmacy participation, and current statutes and legislation related to pharmacy participation in VFC.