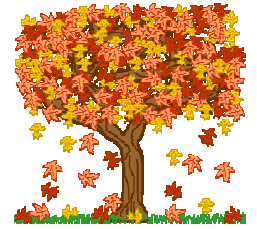
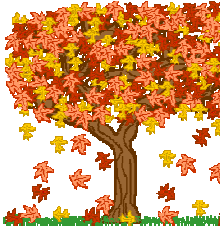


# Immunization Newsletter

Fall 2015



## Provider Immunization Awards

Awards for immunization coverage rates were sent to providers in early September. These awards were based on the 2014 through 2015 quarterly rate reports. There were three different awards that were given to providers. The first award was given to those providers who have reached a Healthy People 2020 Goal of 90 percent or better for four doses of DTaP by 24 months of age. The providers that received the "DTaP 4" award are:

- First District Health Unit – Bottineau County
- Cavalier County Health District
- Lake Region District Health Unit Eddy County
- Lake Region District Health Unit Ramsey County
- Richland County Health Department
- Walsh County District Health
- Foster County Public Health
- Rolette County Public Health District
- Sanford North Mandan Clinic
- Heart of America Johnson Clinic Rugby
- Essentia Health Wahpeton Clinic
- Altru Clinic Pediatrics
- Great Plains Clinic
- Independent Family Doctors
- Midgarden Family Clinic
- Trinity Health Center West



- First Care Rural Health Clinic

We also identified providers that showed a 10 percent or greater improvement in their completion rates for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 (4 DTaP: 3 HepB:1 MMR:3 Hib:3 IPV:1 varicella:4 PCV) series from 2014 to 2015. The providers that received the "Most Improved" award are:

- Richland County Health Department
- Central Valley Health District Stutsman County
- UND Center for Family Medicine, Minot
- Sanford North Mandan Clinic
- Sanford Clinic Hillsboro
- Sanford Mayville Clinic
- Essentia South University FP
- Midgarden Family Clinic
- First Care Rural Health Clinic
- Sanford 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Clinic Jamestown



The third award was sent to those who have achieved the Healthy People 2020 Goal of 80 percent or higher immunization rates for one dose each of Tdap, meningococcal conjugate vaccine, and 90 percent or higher immunization rates for 2 two doses of varicella vaccine, as well as a 60 percent HPV immunization rate for

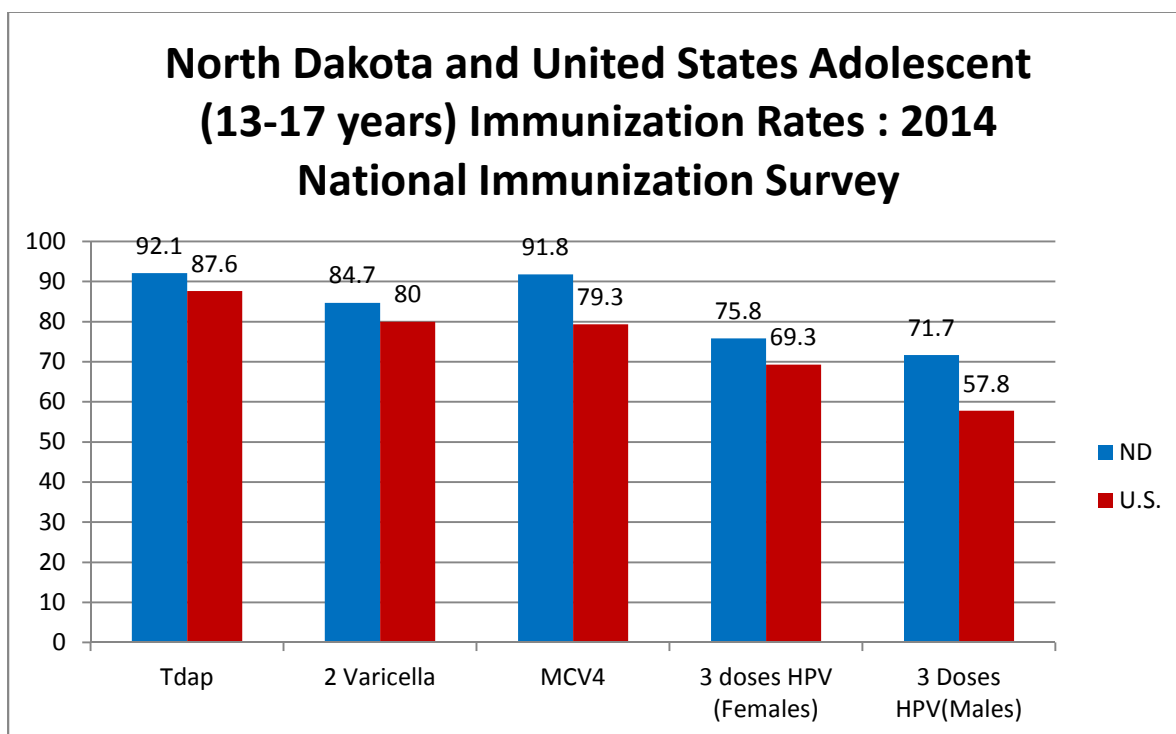
males and females for adolescents 13 through 15 years of age. The providers that received the “Adolescent Award” are:

- Lake Region District Health Unit-Benson County
- Walsh County Health District
- Trinity Health Center West

### 2014 National Immunization Survey Results for Adolescents 13 - 17 Years

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) rates for adolescents, ages 13 to 17, were released on July 30, 2015. The Healthy People 2020 Goal set for adolescent immunizations is 80 percent for Tdap, HPV, and meningococcal conjugate vaccines. The Healthy People 2020 Goal is 90 percent coverage for two doses of varicella vaccine. According to the NIS, North Dakota’s rates for adolescents ages 13 to 17 years are above average in comparison to the United States average for all adolescent vaccines. North Dakota has met Healthy People 2020 Goals for Tdap and MCV4. Healthy People 2020 Goals have not yet been met for two varicella, females starting the HPV series, or males or females completing the HPV series. The chart below

demonstrates North Dakota’s immunization rates for 2014 versus the national averages for these vaccines and the series completion. When adolescents are seen for other immunizations, HPV vaccine should be offered. An appointment for the second and third HPV doses can also be made at that time. Using the forecast tool in NDIIS at all immunization visits will help to reduce the number of missed opportunities. The Reminder/Recall function can also help providers contact children and adolescents who are coming due or are overdue for immunizations. Using these tools on a consistent basis will increase North Dakota and provider immunization rates.



## 2014 National Immunization Survey Results for Children 19–35 Months

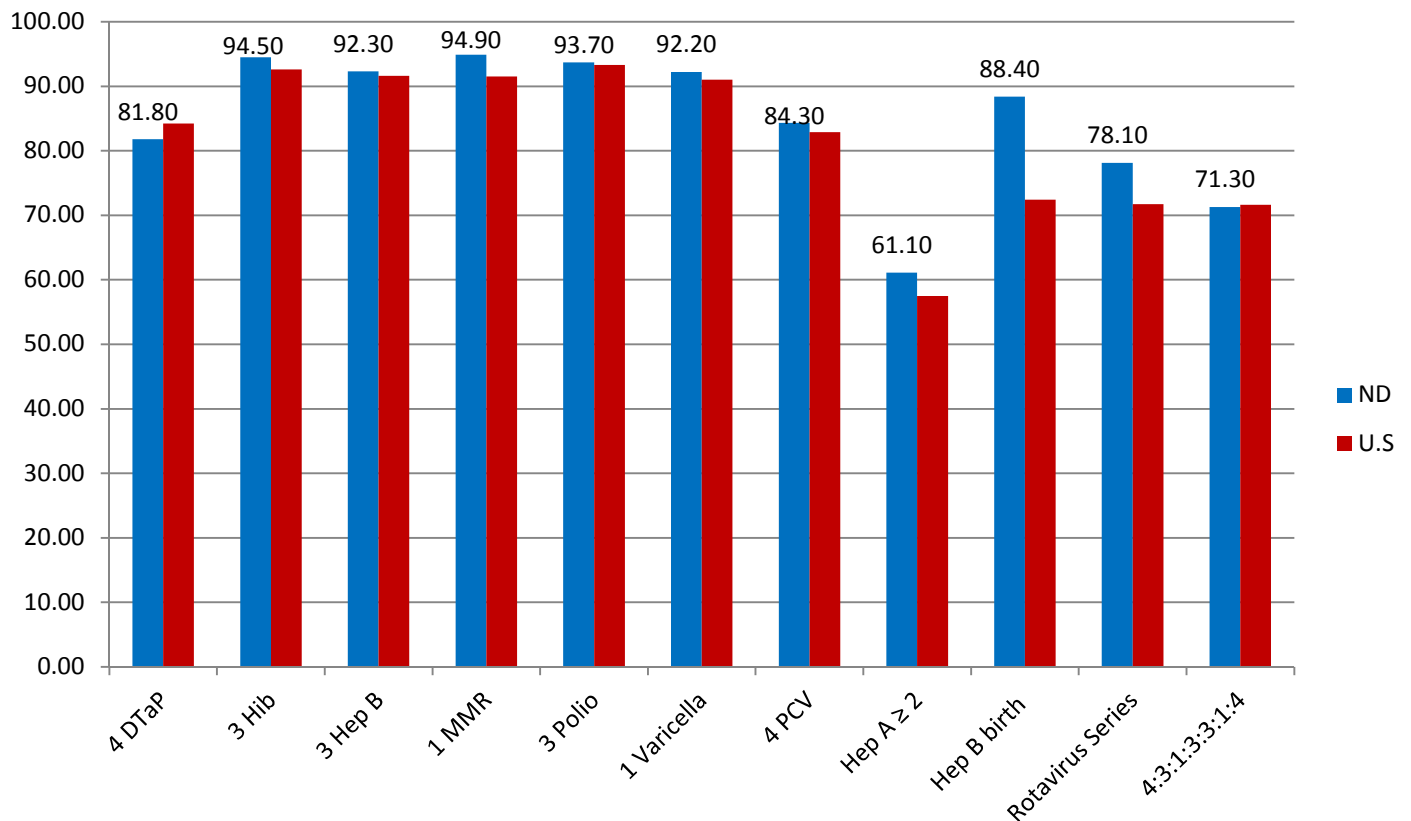
The NIS rates for infants ages 19 through 35 months were released on August 27, 2015. The Healthy People 2020 Goals set for childhood immunizations are 90 percent for each vaccine and 80 percent for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series (one or more doses of MMR and varicella, three or more doses of hepatitis B and polio, four or more doses of PCV and DTaP, and three or four Hib vaccines).

According to the NIS North Dakota's rates for infants 19–35 months are well below the United States average for the fourth DTaP dose. However, North Dakota's rates for infants 19–35 months are well above the United States average for the birth dose of hepatitis B, rotavirus, and hepatitis A vaccines. North Dakota has met the

Healthy People 2020 Goals for three hepatitis B, one MMR, three Hib, 1 varicella, and three polio. The Healthy People 2020 Goals have not been met for three DTaP, four PCV, two hepatitis A, hepatitis B birth dose, two or three doses of rotavirus vaccine, or the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series. While overall vaccination rates in North Dakota increased for all immunizations, there was a small drop in the North Dakota 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series rate. The United States average did not experience declines in rates for these vaccines.

The chart below demonstrates North Dakota's immunization rates for 2014 versus the national averages for these vaccines and the series completion.

**North Dakota and United States Children (19-35 months) Immunization Rates: 2014 National Immunization Survey**





## Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Recommendation Clarification



If two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) doses are given at age 10 or older and both doses are given prior to turning 16 years of age, a booster dose (third dose) of MCV4 is recommended at 16 through 18 years. People ages 19 through 21 years who are entering college or are first-year students living in a residence hall who have not received a dose of MCV4 on or after age 16 years should be vaccinated. For those not entering college or a first year student living in a residence hall, a dose between 19 through 21 years may be

administered if a dose has not been given after the 16th birthday.

Currently, the NDIIS forecaster is not forecasting for a third dose of MCV4 if an adolescent received two doses between the ages of 10 and 15. This is being corrected.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is working with the North Dakota University System to make changes to the North Dakota MCV4 college requirement to reflect this clarification.



## Thermometer Purchasing Guide



As a reminder your Fridge-Tag 2® data loggers that were provided in May 2014 will expire on April 8, 2016 and the backup data loggers that were sent out to providers in November 2014 will expire in October and November 2016. As of January 1, 2015 data logger thermometers are required by the Immunization Program for use in all VFC refrigerators and freezer units. Each provider will be responsible to purchase their

own data logger when the current data loggers expire. The data loggers must meet the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements, which can be found on the purchasing guide. An updated thermometer purchasing guide can be found on our website at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm>.

## Influenza Vaccine Information Statements

Remember that we are once again upon influenza season and the new vaccine information statements (VIS) are out. The VIS for both the inactivated and the live influenza vaccine can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html). They are both for the 2015-2016

influenza season and providers should begin using these VIS statements as soon as they begin administering any influenza vaccine.



## School Immunization Survey

Just a reminder to providers that the 2015-16 school immunization surveys were sent to the schools for their completion by November 20, 2015. The most significant change to the school survey this year is that schools will be required to report vaccine-specific exemptions by type and by grade, in addition to total exemptions by type and by grade. A webinar is now available at

[www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/schools-ChildCare](http://www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/schools-ChildCare) and provides instructions about how to complete the school survey. Schools may obtain access to the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), the statewide immunization registry, to view immunization records.

## 2015-2016 Influenza Kickoff

Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley helped kick off flu vaccination season on October 2, 2015, by speaking to members of the media in Memorial Hall and by receiving his own flu vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all children, including healthy children, ages 6 months through 18 years be adequately immunized against influenza. For healthy children ages 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions, either live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) or inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) is an appropriate option. No preference is expressed for LAIV4 or IIV for any person for whom either vaccine is appropriate.

### Flumist Update

The immunization program has received updated communication about when Flumist® doses will become available. The Flumist® shipping schedule received from the CDC is listed below.



- September: 30% - already sent out to providers
- October: 15% already sent out to providers
- November: 12% of total prebook
- December: 41% of total prebook
- January 2% of total prebook

### HealthMap Flu Vaccine Finder

The HealthMap Vaccine Locator is again available to advertise influenza vaccine clinics. Once a vaccine clinic is posted the public can log on to find their nearest flu clinic is. Providers will need to register and create an account with HealthMap prior to being able to add flu clinic information. Providers can find the link to register and post here:

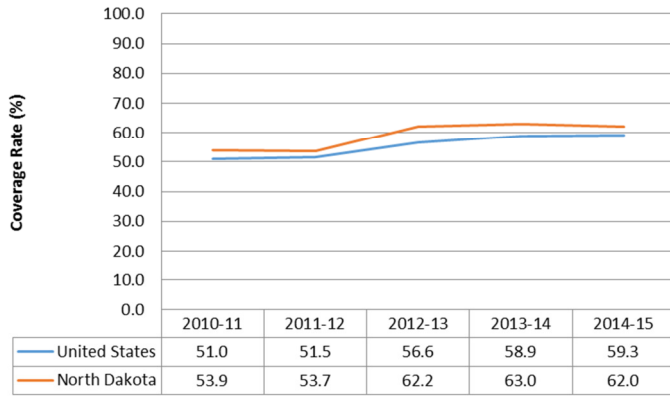
<http://ndflu.com/Vaccine/VaccineInformation.aspx>. The Vaccine Finder can be used to advertise availability of any vaccine year-round, not just for seasonal influenza.

If you have any questions please contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

## Influenza Vaccination Coverage

The graphs below show the coverage rates for North Dakota as compared to the U.S. National average.

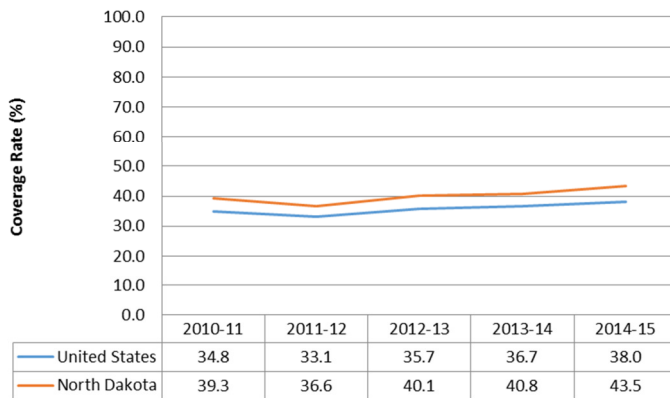
**Influenza vaccination coverage estimates\* by State, HHS Region, and the United States,† National Immunization Survey (NIS) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010-11 through 2014-15 influenza seasons 6m-17y**



This graph shows the immunization rates for the age group of 6 months through 17 years. In the 2014-2015 influenza season, the coverage rates slightly decreased over from prior 2 years.

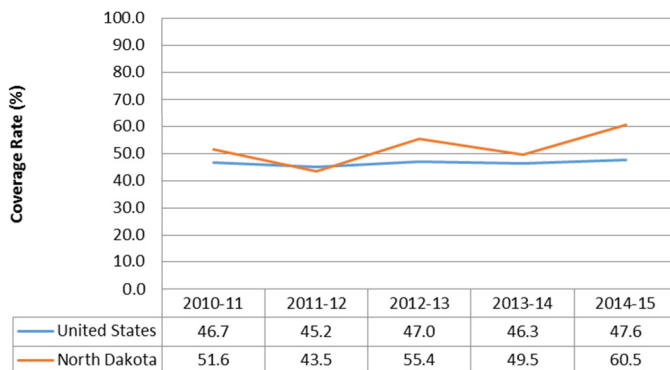


**Influenza vaccination coverage estimates\* by State, HHS Region, and the United States,† National Immunization Survey (NIS) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010-11 through 2014-15 influenza seasons 18-64y**



This graph shows the immunization rates for the age group of 18 through 64 years. In the 2014-2015 influenza season, the coverage rates have increased compared to prior years. The influenza vaccine coverage rates have also steadily increased each year for this age group as well.

**Influenza vaccination coverage estimates\* by State, HHS Region, and the United States,† National Immunization Survey (NIS) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010-11 through 2014-15 influenza seasons HR 18-64y**



This graph shows the immunization rates for the age group of 18 through 64 years that are considered high risk. In the 2014-2015 influenza season, the coverage rates had a large increase in previous years.



## HPV Vaccination

Since HPV 9 was introduced into the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program in May 2015 there has been an increased uptake among adolescents receiving the vaccine. The use of HPV 4 has decreased over the months since the new nano-valent vaccine has become available.

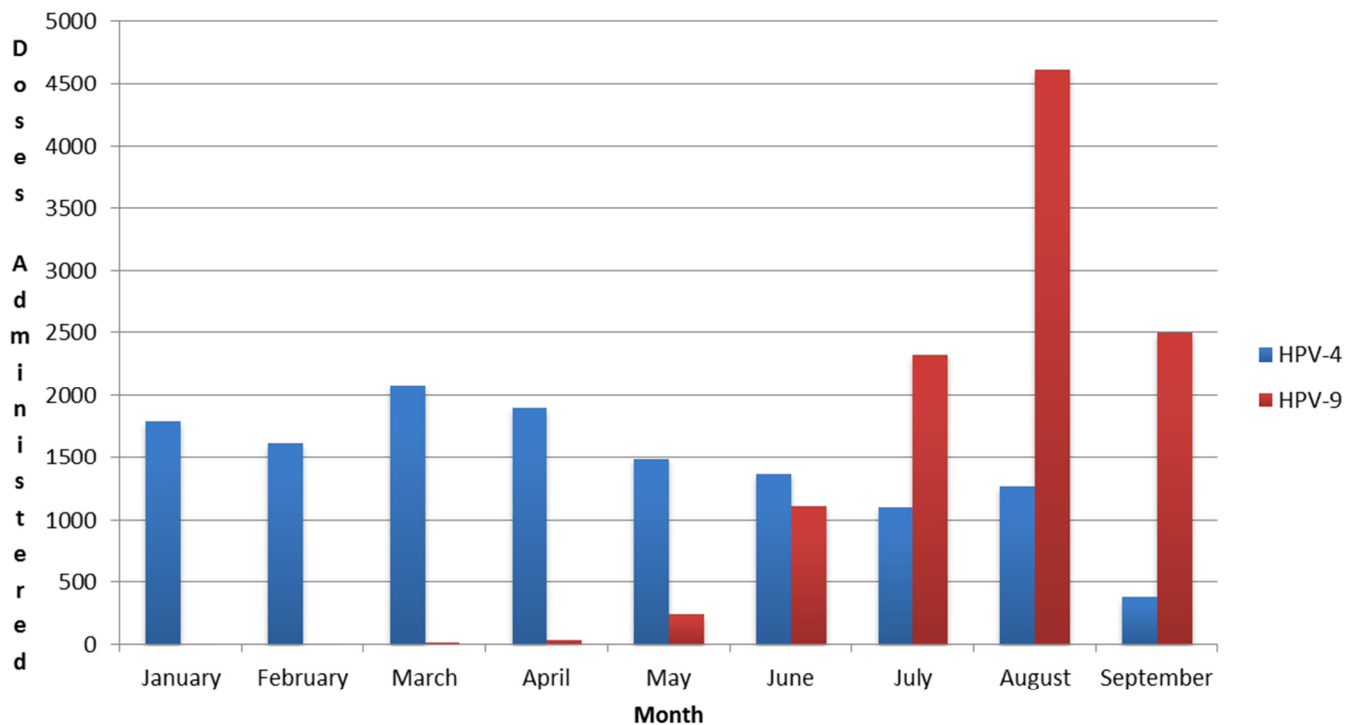
Recommendations for increasing HPV vaccination rates are:

- When offering HPV vaccine, offer it as you would Tdap or meningococcal vaccine. HPV vaccine should not be viewed as less important just because it is not required for school. It should not be offered as an “optional” vaccine, but as a routinely recommended vaccine like all the other vaccines.
- Presenting the necessary vaccines as a package, saying “today your child needs HPV, Tdap, and meningococcal vaccines,”

can be very effective. Once all vaccines are presented, you can answer any questions the parents may have.

- Make sure that physicians, nursing staff, and office assistants are all presenting the information the same way.
- Patients are 6 to 10 times more likely to get HPV vaccine if prompted by the electronic health record.
- Every organization should have an immunization champion to act as an advocate for immunizations. Find an HPV vaccination champion at your facility to educate and motivate staff to increase rates. Connect pediatricians and family practice physicians with OB-GYNs and oncologists. Oncologists don’t want your patients to be their patients in the future.

**HPV4 and HPV9 Doses Administered According to NDIIS by Month, January - September 2015**



## Pertussis Cases on the Rise

Since September 14, 13 new cases of pertussis have been reported in North Dakota. Cases have been reported across the state with several cases residing in Morton County. So far, 31 cases of pertussis have been reported this year in North Dakota. Pertussis or whooping cough is a severe coughing illness caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. People who have pertussis often cough to the point of gagging or throwing

up. Individuals suspected of having pertussis should be tested and told to stay home to avoid exposing others. Individuals with pertussis are contagious until they have completed five days of appropriate antibiotics or they have been coughing for 21 days. DTaP and Tdap vaccinations protect against pertussis and are routinely recommended for children and adolescents respectively.

## Chickenpox Study

This past summer, an Immunization Program student intern analyzed data from facilities to compare the number of reported cases to the number of confirmed cases of chickenpox. The study examined data from two facilities. The patient history from these facilities was compared to NDIIS for immunization history and then to our reporting data base to see if the cases

had been reported. Research determined that 84 lab confirmed cases of chickenpox were not reported to the NDDoH.

Chickenpox is a mandatory reportable condition in North Dakota, regardless if laboratory testing is conducted. If you have any questions please contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

## New Administrative Assistant

Hello, I'm Kelsie Howes, and I'm the new Administrative Assistant for the Division of Disease Control. I have worked in the Administrative field for the past eight years, having started with the NDDoH Division of Air Quality when I was a sophomore in high school! I live in Bismarck with my husband Montana, our Welsh Corgi we call "Dock,"

and our big gray kitty named "Jasper." In my free time, I enjoy reading and yoga. I look forward to working with all of you!







NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

Division of Disease Control  
Immunization Program

[www.ndhealth.gov/immunize](http://www.ndhealth.gov/immunize)

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## Calendar of Events

**NFID Fall 2015 Clinical Vaccinology Course**  
November 13 through 15, 2015 in North  
Bethesda, MD

**November Lunch and Learn, November 18, 2015**

**National Influenza Vaccination Week, December**  
6 through 12, 2015

**December Lunch and Learn, December 9, 2015**

**North Dakota State Immunization Conference,**  
Bismarck, ND, August 3 and 4, 2016

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