



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**
1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1931

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH
State Health Director

September 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Directors

ATTN: WIC/Nutrition Directors

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head Immunization Branch *BRW*
 Joe Holliday, MD, MPH, Head Women's Health Branch *JHO*
 Alice Lenihan, RD, MPH, LDN, Head Nutrition Services Branch *AL*

SUBJECT: Promotion of Whooping Cough Vaccine to Families in the WIC Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends families be immunized against whooping cough (also know as pertussis). The new recommendations are targeted at adolescents and adults since they are responsible for more than one-half of the new cases of whooping cough.

Due to waning immunity, North Carolina's adults, and often new mothers, are frequently the source of whooping cough infection in infants. Infants under 12 months of age are particularly vulnerable to whooping cough. Adults who have close contact with an infant under 12 months of age should receive a single dose of whooping cough vaccine (called Tdap).

With WIC Program staff in a key position to help safeguard the health of families, we are requesting your help in distributing the enclosed flyers. The two-sided flyers, with English on one side and Spanish on the other, sized to fit into WIC ID folders remind mothers to get a whooping cough shot. Please start distributing your supply of flyers to appropriate clients upon receipt of this mailing.

To help guide clients, WIC staff should be familiar with their agency's plans and local availability of the whooping cough vaccine. WIC staff can consult with immunization staff in their agency (if available) to prepare to answer questions about the availability of whooping cough shots in the manner that best fits the policies and guidance of the agency and the community. Options for obtaining the shots include private medical providers or the health department immunization clinics.

If you have questions about this promotion, please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant and/or the Regional Nutrition Consultant for your agency. Thank you for your efforts in supporting and advancing whooping cough vaccination recommendations for women and their families.

- Enclosures
 c: SMT ✓ NSB Unit Supervisors Marti Wolf ✓ WHB RNC's NSB RNCs
 IMT ✓ IB Regional Staff Louis Cook ✓ LHD Directors of Nursing ✓



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