



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2016

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Registration Still Open for November 3 Immunization Conference

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Immunization Coalition will sponsor its 11th annual immunization conference on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monroeville. The conference, held from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is targeted to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical office staff, community service/public health professionals, and students. Continuing education credits are also available. Registration is still open and interested parties are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, will welcome conference participants and have opening remarks: “Immunizations are one of our most important public health tools for keeping our population healthy. Every year the immunization conference sheds light on important information for providers and residents. The more we all know, the healthier our region can be.”

Featured speakers will include: Wilbert van Panhuis, MD, PhD, Assistant professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH, Medical Officer at the Education, Information and Partnership Branch at the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Lyn B. Robertson, DrPH, MSN, RN, Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Director of Health Equity, Education and Advocacy with the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute as well as the Vice-Chair for the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition; Winifred Frazier, MD, HRSA -T-32 Postdoctoral Scholar and University of Pittsburgh Family Medicine Faculty Development Fellow at UPMC St. Margaret; and Veronica Lewis, RN, BSN, Quality Assurance Nurse with the Allegheny County Health Department.

The speakers will address changes to the childhood and adult immunization schedules, the important role vaccines play in preventing the spread of diseases across borders, and how cancers caused by HPV impact communities of color. A question and answer session will follow each presentation.

Also this year, thirteen local vaccine providers in the Pennsylvania Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program will be recognized for high immunization rates, several at 100%. Those facilities include: Caring Hands Pediatrics in North Hills; Child Advocacy Children’s Hospital; Children’s Community Pediatrics Gil; Children’s Community Pediatrics Health Quest; Children’s Community Pediatrics Jefferson; Children’s Community Pediatrics Mt. Lebanon; Children’s Community Pediatrics South Hills and Premier Medical Associates Golden Mile. Also to be recognized are: Pediatric Alliance, 97%; McKeesport Family Health Center, 96%; Renaissance Family Practice, 96%; West Hills Pediatrics, 96%; and Alma Illery, 93%. Each of these facilities achieved outstanding immunization rates among their patients in the audit period from August 16, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

Immunization materials, resources and information will be available from various exhibitors.

The registration fee is \$35, with a discounted fee of \$15 for students. To register online, visit www.immunizeallegheny.org.

The Allegheny County Immunization Coalition is a group of 43 health organizations and education institutions led by the Allegheny County Health Department and committed to protecting children, adults and seniors from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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