



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Melissa Wade  
Public Health Information Officer  
412-578-8312 office  
412-339-7995 cell  
[mwade@achd.net](mailto:mwade@achd.net)

## **Registration Deadline Approaching for November 5 Immunization Conference**

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Immunization Coalition will sponsor its 10<sup>th</sup> annual immunization conference on Thursday, November 5 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monroeville. The conference, held from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 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 closes October 29 and interested parties are encouraged to register soon.

Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, will welcome conference participants and have opening remarks. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald will present a proclamation to the Immunization Coalition and have remarks as well.

“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,” said Dr. Hacker.

Featured speakers will include Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN, Nurse Educator for the Communication and Education Branch with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC; Diane Silverman, RPh, Immunizing Pharmacist at The Medicine Shoppe of Penn Hills, as well as The Medicine Shoppe Compounding and Wellness Center of Oakmont; Kathy Till, RHIA, manager of the PA Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS) for the Southwest and Northwest Districts; and Veronica Lewis, RN, BSN, Quality Assurance Immunization Consultant for the Allegheny County Health Department.

The speakers will address changes to the childhood and adult immunization schedules, venues and opportunities for patients to receive vaccines outside their medical home, strategies for pharmacists and health care providers to work together to improve vaccination rates, and the importance of the PA immunization registry and the incentives available for providers who participate in it. A question and answer session will follow each presentation.

Also this year, nine 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; Children’s Community Pediatrics in Pittsburgh; East Suburban Pediatrics in Monroeville; Kids Plus Pediatrics in Greenfield; Pediatric Alliance in Greentree; and, Sewickley Valley Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine in Wexford. Also to be recognized are: Children’s Community Pediatrics in South Fayette, 97%; Children’s Community Pediatrics in Moon, 96%; and Sewickley Valley Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine in Sewickley, 96%. Each of these facilities achieved outstanding immunization rates among their patients in the audit period from August 1, 2014 through August 15, 2015.

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 <https://ccehs.upmc.com/liveFormalCourses.jsf>. Paper registration forms may be obtained by visiting [www.immunizeallegheny.org](http://www.immunizeallegheny.org). Again, registration closes October 29.

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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KAREN HACKER, MD, MPH, DIRECTOR

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

PHONE (412) 687-ACHD • FAX (412) 578-8325 • [WWW.ACHD.NET](http://WWW.ACHD.NET)

