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There were a lot of smiles from students and student athletes at the College of Idaho on September 24th that had less to do with friendship/sports and a lot more to do with protecting their health. All of the students had one thing in common, a bright bandage on their arms and the satisfaction in knowing they had been vaccinated for free against the deadly Type B strain of meningitis. Working with the Idaho Immunization Coalition, the College of Idaho vaccinated more than 370 students against an often deadly disease that has caused campus outbreaks nationwide.

Because Type B meningitis preys on primarily college students living in dormitories, involved in close contact, sharing water bottles and more, everyone was encouraged to participate - including all of our sports teams. Athletes turned out in large numbers as did other students throughout the campus. Football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, swimmers - all lined up next to their fellow students to get the shot. They shared their participation by posting on social media.

While not a state requirement, the Type B meningitis vaccination is often recommended to incoming freshman. If contracted, this disease, which can initially look like the flu, can quickly infect brain and spinal membranes leading to serious debilitation and death within 24 hours if not caught quickly. While regular meningitis shots have been around for some time, Type B meningitis vaccines only recently became available.

A special thank you goes out to ISU College of Pharmacy faculty/students for immunizing all of the College of Idaho students.

The Idaho Immunization Coalition also shared with the College of Idaho students and their parents these videos to watch before taking part in the MenB Campaign.
Chances are you have heard, either directly or indirectly, that adult vaccinations are important. However, adult vaccination rates remain low in the United States, and significant racial and ethnic disparities continue to exist. In fact, only 45.6% of adults were vaccinated against the flu during the last flu season (CDC, 2016).

Fortunately, we now have multiple vaccines for adults, age 18 and older, to prevent a host of diseases, including influenza. Adults are now recommended to receive 13 different vaccines. Are you unsure about which vaccines an adult should receive? Click on the immunization schedule for more information.

How can we help increase adult vaccination rates?

In 2011, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) recommended the development of a strategic plan with the goal of improving adult immunization. Recognition that progress has been slow and that there is a need for a national adult immunization strategic plan the plan was released by the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) in February 2016.

The National Adult Immunization Plan (NAIP) details background on the adult immunization landscape and provides a strategic plan for federal and nonfederal stakeholders for increasing adult immunization rates. The process for development included an environmental scan, stakeholder engagement, prioritized actions, and indicator development. There are four major goals identified within the plan and within each goal, the NAIP details measurable objectives and sub-objectives.

**Goal 1: Strengthen the adult immunization infrastructure**

**Goal 2: Improve access to adult vaccines**

**Goal 3: Increase community demand for adult immunizations**

**Goal 4: Foster innovation in adult vaccine development and vaccination-related technologies**

What is specifically called out in the NAIP are ways nongovernmental stakeholders including: health care providers, health care systems, community immunizers, adult immunization coalitions, and the general public can help improve adult vaccination. Goal 3 includes three objectives that are relevant for the Idaho Immunization Coalition (IIC).

**Objective 3.1**

Educate and encourage **individuals** to be aware of and receive recommended adult immunizations.

**Objective 3.2**

Educate and encourage **health care providers** to recommend and/or deliver adult vaccinations.

**Objective 3.3**

Educate and encourage other groups (e.g., community and faith-based groups) to promote the importance of adult immunization.

Many of the objectives listed above already manifest in the work the Idaho Immunization Coalition is currently doing. It is helpful to see how work at the local level can have an impact on our nation’s health as a whole. If you work with adults, we encourage you to review the National Adult Immunization Plan and the Adult Immunization schedule and help the IIC identify opportunities for improving adult vaccinations, and share best practices for increasing adult coverage.

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American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)
The name Maurice Hilleman may not sound familiar to everyday Americans, but in the world of immunizations, he is “the most successful vaccinologist in history.”

What is most astounding is most Americans have never heard of him and he is credited with saving more lives than any other medical scientist of the 20th century.

Maurice Ralph Hilleman was born on August 30, 1919 in Miles City, Montana. He spent much of his youth on the family farm. He credits much of his success to his work with chickens as a boy. Since the 1930’s fertile chicken eggs have been used to grow viruses for vaccines.

His career took him many places, including Bristol-Meyers-Squibb, where he developed a vaccine against Japanese B encephalitis. He joined Merck and Co in 1957 and went on to help develop most of the forty experimental and licensed animal and human vaccines to which he is credited.

One of the most known stories of Hilleman came with the development of the Mumps vaccine. In 1963 his daughter, Jeryl Lynn came down with the mumps. He used material from her culture to develop the mumps vaccine that is still currently used in the trivalent vaccine MMR II.

Of the vaccines currently on the schedule, he developed eight: Measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningitis, pneumonia, and Haemophilus influenza bacteria.

His influence on modern day immunizations is fascinating and incredible. A name I think we should all recognize.

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