

FALL 2024

ISSUE NO.3

FALLING INTO PLACE WITH SAN DIEGO

KICK THE FLU⁺² *Summit Re-cap*

Thank you for joining us at the 20th Annual Kick the Flu +2 Summit on Thursday 8/29! We hope you found the event insightful and valuable as we work together to promote flu, RSV, and COVID-19 prevention and awareness in our community.

We were thrilled to have an incredible lineup of speakers who shared their expertise and passion for immunizations and public health. Their presentations provided valuable insights into flu prevention, vaccination strategies, and community health initiatives. Additionally, a special thanks to our exhibitors who showcased a range of resources and tools to help us stay prepared and protected throughout the respiratory season. Their contributions were an essential part of making the summit a success.



A big thank you to our speakers and panel members: Dr. Shah, Dr. Schechter, Dr. Pannaraj, Danelle, Jessica, Glory, and Heather. We also extend our gratitude to our exhibitors: Family Health Centers of San Diego, San Diego State University Research Foundation- Women, Infants, and Children and Centers for Equitable and Diverse Research, Albertsons Vons Pavilions, Merck, AstraZeneca, Moderna, Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch, CSL Seqirus, Sanofi, Mother to Baby, San Diego PATH, 211 San Diego, and UCSD Pediatric Immunization Advancement Laboratory.

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MISSION

The mission of SDIC is to increase immunization rates and improve the health of the residents of San Diego County by raising awareness and providing education about vaccine-preventable diseases.

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KICK THE FLU⁺²

2023-2024 State Flu Awards

Shoutout to Outstanding Providers!

Thank you to all providers who participated in the 2023-2024 State-Purchased Influenza Vaccine Program and for your dedication to protecting San Diego County residents through flu vaccinations. Your efforts make a significant impact in our communities.

This year, we recognized 3 outstanding providers for their exceptional performance:

National City Fire Department Station 34 vaccinated 530 vulnerable community members and submitted 100% of their weekly reports timely.

San Diego Family Care, across three locations, administered 1,455 State flu vaccines and submitted 88% of their weekly reports timely.

Vista Community Clinic, across 9 locations, administered 5,392 State flu vaccines and increased their vaccine usage by 46% from the prior season.

Thank you all for your remarkable commitment to protecting our communities!



National City Fire Department
Station 34



San Diego Family Care



Vista Community Clinic

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AND THE FLU

Immunocompromised individuals are all around us, including the elderly, pregnant individuals, people with HIV, solid organ transplant recipients, those with autoimmune diseases, cancer patients, and others. Being immunocompromised means having a weaker immune system, making these individuals more susceptible to illnesses and it more challenging to fight them off. Due to their low immunity, live vaccines are usually not recommended as weakened viruses or bacteria can replicate and infect the body.

During Influenza (Flu) season, it's important to understand how the immunocompromised population is affected. In the US alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there are 9.3 to 41 million Flu cases yearly, leading to over 225,000 hospital admissions and 36,000 deaths. The CDC recommends that immunocompromised individuals receive the Flu vaccine annually and consult their doctor for specific guidance. Guidelines also deter patients from getting the nasal mist, as it contains a weakened live virus. Most immunosuppressed populations are at higher risk of Flu-associated complications.



How are the symptoms of Flu different for this population? Flu symptoms in immunocompromised individuals can be more severe and include, but are not limited to, body aches, fever, and cough. They can lead to medical complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and possibly other conditions. The Flu can cause dehydration, which can cause various added medical conditions. This severely affects the elderly community and infants due to their body's water composition, increasing the risk for medical complications and hospitalizations. These two populations are at high risk for dehydration, and the Flu can exacerbate the way their body functions: including digestion, immunity, and thirst response. For those with kidney disorders, dehydration can lead to weaker kidney function which can affect the body's ability to eliminate waste. Those with Cancer or HIV are at a higher risk for developing secondary bacterial infections which can result in respiratory failure if medical attention is not received. And, although the exact reason is not clear, Flu has also been associated with acute graft rejection for solid organ transplants – specifically for kidney and lung transplants.

Stay up to date with your vaccines! Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to learn more.

You can help protect yourself and the immunocompromised population in your community by getting an annual Flu vaccine, which helps build herd immunity. Herd immunity provides indirect protection for those more susceptible. By vaccinating yourself, not only do you protect yourself, but you also help others who might not be as safe as you.

[Visit page 9 for more references!](#)

TIPS ON CREATING A VACCINE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

A vaccine-positive environment encourages vaccination by educating patients and staff on the benefits, making vaccines easily accessible, and promoting a culture that supports immunization. This approach helps build trust, increase vaccine uptake, and enhance community health. Learn tips on how to create a vaccine-positive environment.

Update Staff:

Inform staff regularly about new vaccination regulations and share positive patient stories.



Educational Materials:

Provide easy-to-read information on illnesses, vaccines, and how vaccines work.



Neutral Communication:

Use neutral language to help patients feel comfortable and avoid pressure to receive the vaccine.



Provide Resources:

Offer financial assistance information, like Vaccinations for Children (VFC) for free child vaccinations.



Send Reminders:

Notify patients of upcoming vaccine appointments to help them stay prepared and avoid missed schedules.



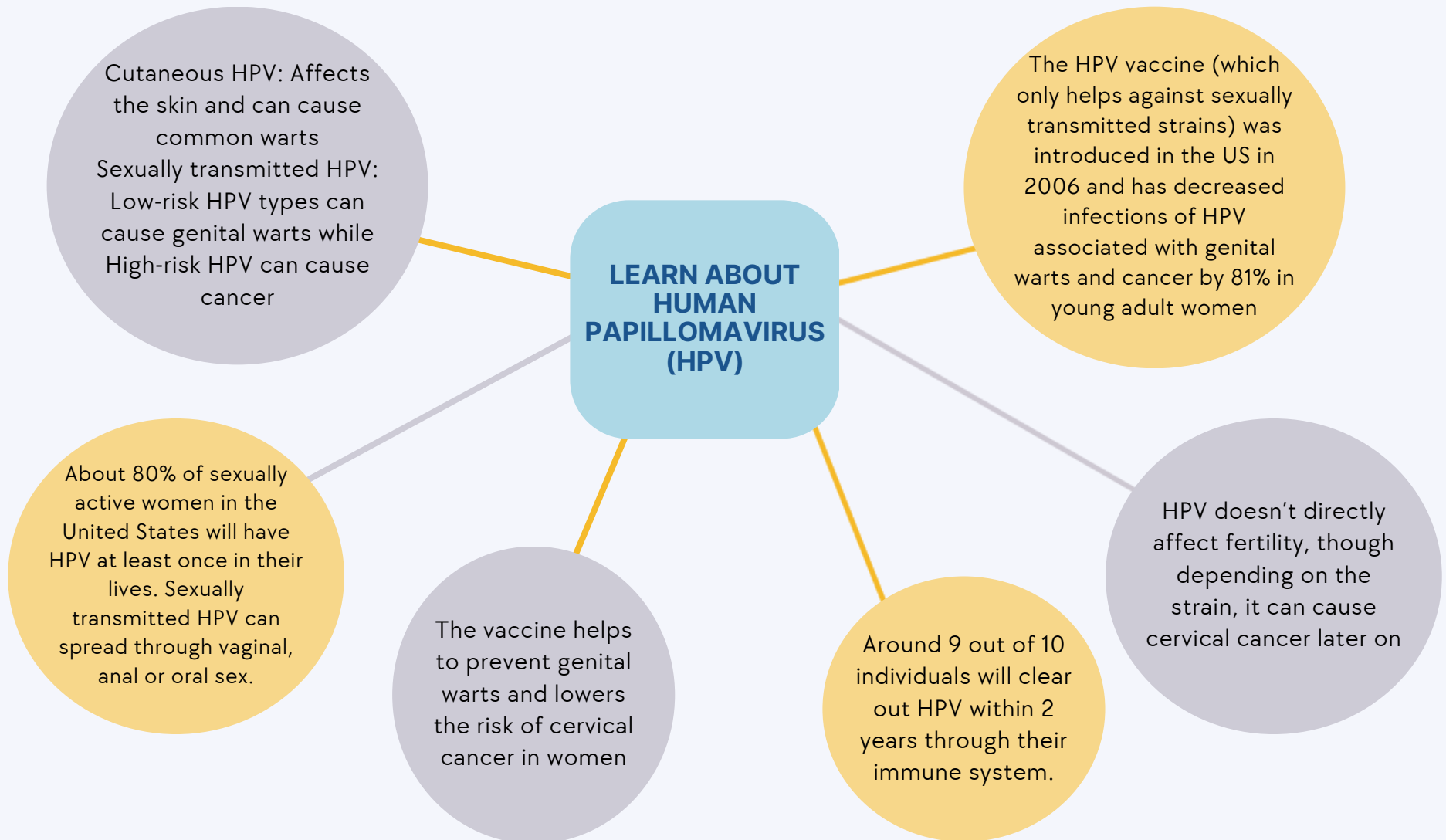
Convenient Clinics:

Schedule vaccine events during convenient times, like evenings or weekends, to make it easier for families to attend.



LEARN ABOUT HPV

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a DNA virus that can affect the body, causing genital warts and potentially cancer. The population most affected by this virus is any sexually active person, with the prevalence mostly in young adults. The virus can be spread both sexually and through skin-to-skin contact depending on the type of strain. Learn more facts about HPV below!



SDIC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MEET OUR SDIC LEADERSHIP!

THE SDIC CO-CHAIR SERVES A TWO-YEAR STAGGERED TERM, WHILE THE SDIC CHAIR-ELECT SERVES A ONE-YEAR TERM BEFORE STEPPING INTO THE CO-CHAIR ROLE AT THE START OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.



Greta has dedicated over 20 years to working at Sanofi Vaccines. In her role as a Strategic Account Manager, she partners with Health Systems, Medical Groups, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to ensure these organizations have the necessary resources and tools to immunize their patients. Her goal is to prevent anyone in San Diego from suffering from a vaccine-preventable disease.

With a Master's in Public Health from San Diego State University, Greta has been an active member of the San Diego Immunization Coalition (SDIC) for many years and currently serves as Co-Chair. She enjoys being involved with the coalition, helping to strategize best practices, and bringing the medical community together with the common goal of vaccination.

Outside of her professional life, Greta enjoys a variety of water sports. On weekends, you can find her swimming, paddle-boarding on the ocean, or wake surfing behind the boat with her kids. A fun fact about Greta is that she has four children, one of whom has followed in her footsteps and works at Sanofi Vaccines in Chicago.



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SDIC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Gaile Crean has been a part of the San Diego Immunization Coalition since 2020 when she took on the role of Immunization Coordinator at Kaiser Permanente. She has had the privilege of working with Kaiser Permanente since 2004.

As an Immunization Coordinator, she supports the organization's leaders, physicians, and frontline staff by offering education, updates on changing immunization practices, and performance data. This ensures that everything possible is done to protect the patient population. In the fall, she coordinates with key team members to ensure the timely delivery of materials, products, and training to staff, physicians, and the seasonal registry, ensuring that every patient can stay healthy during the respiratory illness season.

Being a member of the SDIC has provided Gaile with valuable insights from the community, allowing her to discover new communication strategies and focus areas. This experience has empowered her to bring innovative solutions back to her organization to address both adult and pediatric disparities.

When she's not working, Gaile enjoys section hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, camping, and cooking, especially during the cooler seasons.

She is thankful for the opportunity to continue connecting with SDIC members, learning from them, and contributing to creating a thriving and healthy community.



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