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Senders Pediatrics Update

3/11/10

Mumps Outbreak - There has been an outbreak of mumps in Orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn, New York and Lakewood, New Jersey, leading to confirmed disease in over 2000 people of all ages. Mumps is generally a mild disease that causes cheek swelling (the child looks a little like a chipmunk). In rare cases, it can cause damage to the testes which is why it is a public health concern. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has actually been involved in this matter, providing guidance to communities that may be affected tangentially by this outbreak. Because there is a lot of family movement around the holiday of Passover (celebrated this year at the end of March), there is concern on the part of local public health officials and the CDC, that there will be spread around the country. For some time now, there has been a recommendation to give a second MMR vaccine prior to kindergarten. This is because up to 5% of people are non responders - they don't develop immune protection with the first dose and therefore would benefit from a second dose. There is almost no incidence of waning immunity, meaning that you either respond or you don't but almost no one loses immunity to mumps over time.

The recommendations for Cleveland are that children between 12 months and 5 years, who have received only one dose of MMR and who are visiting relatives in Brooklyn, New York and Lakewood, New Jersey over the Passover holiday or are being visited by relatives from these communities, should receive their second dose of MMR by the end of this month. Children who are not travelling or welcoming visitors from communities with mumps outbreaks do not need to get their 2nd MMR at this time. And there is no need for anyone to receive a 3rd dose of MMR. If you are part of this small group of individuals, please call the office to schedule an MMR for your child. We have reviewed our records of vaccinated individuals and with our attention to providing the proper vaccination to all of our patients, we believe that very few people are potentially impacted by this recommendation.

Influenza Activity - Good news for all! The number of cases of influenza being reported nationwide is well below the numbers seen in previous winters. 4 southern states are reporting regional outbreaks and of interest, these continue to be H1N1, not the seasonal H3N2 or Influenza B that we typically see this time of year. In consulting with Infectious Disease experts, it is not clear why we appear to be missing out on seasonal flu season. We continue to recommend seasonal flu protection, especially of infants turning 6 months who have not yet had a flu vaccine and we continue to offer H1N1 vaccination (mist or injection) with the hope that we will provide long term immune protection for those who are vaccinated.

Well Care Scheduling - Because of the H1N1 epidemic last fall and the need to increase the number of available illness slots, we realize that many children have missed their annual well care physical exam. As the weather improves, we have added back those slots and will be calling those people who may have missed out in the past few months. If you are not sure about your child's status, please don't hesitate to call.

A Fond Farewell to Mary Alice Dombrowski - After 9 special years, we bid a fond farewell to Mary Alice Dombrowski at the end of March. Mary Alice represents the type of kind, warm and caring provider that one rarely encounters in medicine anymore. She answers that extra call, spends that extra minute and makes that extra referral. In short, she gives her heart and soul to everyone with whom she comes in contact. We will miss her as a colleague and we know you will miss her in caring for your children. [Click here](#) to see a copy of Mary Alice's note to all of her patients.

Welcome Julia Caschera - Although Mary Alice cannot be replaced, we are fortunate to have recently hired Julia Caschera, PNP. With strong roots in the community, Julia has recently relocated from the Baltimore area to be closer to her family here in Cleveland. With extensive experience in a practice similar to our own, those who have already met her and worked with her believe that she will provide excellent continuity to those of Mary Alice's patients looking for a similar personality and philosophical style. Of course, Kristina Banks, PNP, Doug Fleck, MD and Andy Mann DO are also accepting new patients.

A few exciting things going on at Senders Pediatrics:

- Love our office? This is your chance to show your friends, family and co workers why you like Senders Pediatrics. Until March 31, 2010, we will be rewarding our patients for new referrals to our office. If you refer a new patient to our office who schedules a well child exam, you will receive a \$20 Target gift certificate. There are no limitations.
- Follow Certified Parent Coach Amy Speidel's blog at www.parentingadvicethatworks.com
- Join Senders Pediatrics [Facebook Fan Page](#). We would love if you would "friend us" so that we have one more way of communicating with our patients. There are also some fun things about upcoming events that you won't want to miss.
- Daily Dose of Reading storytimes in our office on Wednesday, March 24:
 - Birth - 24 months: 9:45 - 10:15 am
 - 2 - 5 years: 10:30 - 11:00 am

As always, thank you for your continued support of our practice. We look forward to taking care of your family's needs this spring.

Sincerely,
Senders Pediatrics

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