
To:
Subject:

From: Wayne, Kathleen A (HSS)
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 1:34 PM
To: HSS DPA WIC Coordinators; Bennis, Don; Welch, Scooter (HSS Sponsored); O'Gara, Kathy (HSS Sponsored)
Cc: HSS DPA WIC Juneau; HSS DPA WIC Anchorage; Olejasz, Aimee M (HSS); 'Danielle Rybicki' (afdrr@uaa.alaska.edu)
Subject: WIC Update July 3

Hi Everyone,
The WIC Program Office will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We wish you and your staff a happy and safe 4th of July holiday.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has contracted with Altarum Institute and RTI International to conduct a comprehensive study of WIC Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) costs at state and local WIC agencies. FNS is interested in understanding the ways in which NSA grant funds are utilized, the range of operations covered by NSA funds, and the impact of the program changes on NSA grant funds. All state and local WIC agencies are included in this WIC NSA Cost study. One of the study activities that involves all local agencies is the completion of a web survey that focuses on the ways in which local agencies utilize the funds to operate WIC services. You will receive information about the web survey directly from RTI sometime in July with instructions on accessing the secure survey website and completing the survey. We encourage you to complete the web survey by the requested completion date of October 1, 2014. This study will be important in informing decision-makers about the full range of valuable services that are performed with WIC NSA funds. We want all our local agencies in [STATE] to provide input through this web survey.

Kathleen

1. **Measles Letter from USDA**--There has been significant increase in reported cases of measles in the US in the last five months. Nearly all of the measles cases this year have been associated with international travel by unvaccinated people. As an adjunct to health care, WIC's role is to ensure that infants and children at risk for under-immunization are referred appropriate care. This is a good time to remind WIC LAs of the importance of ensuring that WIC infants and children are up to date on immunizations.

2. **Vendor Update**----As a reminder to all, the Vendor Management Unit is currently short-staffed. Gina Heffern has moved to a new position with DHSS; please do not send monitoring reviews or requests for assistance to her. Please send emails to Sandy Harbanuk and Erin Khmelev. For phone contacts, please call the 907-465-3100 reception line, and Amy will direct your call to whoever is available to assist.

Complaints about vendors – please make sure to document complaints in an email (sandra.harbanuk@alaska.gov, erin.khmelev@alaska.gov, or wic@alaska.gov) or fax (907-465-3416) to the Vendor Management Unit. We follow up on each complaint and track them in the SPIRIT system. Please give as much detail as you can, including store name, store manager or staff names, date of the incident, and sufficient information for us to use when contacting the store, or to log into SPIRIT, if you have handled the complaint.



3. **SPIRIT Help Desk Info:**

➤ ****VERY IMPORTANT** Please pass along to you staff asap.**

- Due to circumstances beyond our control the WIC SPIRIT HELPDESK will be unavailable from July 7 – July 11 and July 14. During this time if you require help desk assistance please e-mail Chris (christopher.renfro@alaska.gov) and Terry (terry.hoskinson@alaska.gov) and we will get back with you as quickly as possible. If your request is urgent and you require immediate assistance call Terry at 907-465-6398. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and we ask your patience during this time.

Nice To Know:

Nemours prepared a [Childhood Obesity Prevention Toolkit for Rural Communities](#). The toolkit provides a range of strategies and success stories to assist practitioners in child-serving sectors, including: early care and education, schools, out-of-school time, community initiatives and healthcare. The profiled communities were able to leverage their unique rural resources and benefited from close community bonds to improve children’s health. The toolkit also includes policy recommendations and an overview of the evaluation process. Please feel free to share the link with interested colleagues, networks, stakeholders and constituencies. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Daniella Gratale, Senior Manager of Advocacy at Nemours, at daniella.gratale@nemours.org.

The art and science of feeding little eaters, especially if they are picky

http://www.newsminer.com/features/our_town/cooperative_extension/the-art-and-science-of-feeding-little-eaters-especially-if/article_2ea14ac6-0282-11e4-9125-001a4bcf6878.html

By Marsha Munsell

FAIRBANKS — Young children tend to be picky about what they eat. This can be frustrating for parents. If you worry about your child eating too much or too little, refer to the recommended amounts of what children should eat to get the nutrients they need for healthy growth.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 27, 2014

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
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Dear WIC State Agency Director:

As part of our partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coordinate immunization promotion efforts in WIC, I am sending you a link to CDC's May 29, 2014, press release about the recent increase in measles cases in the U.S. at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p0529-measles.html>.

Two hundred and eighty-eight cases of measles were reported to CDC between January 1 and May 23, 2014. This is the largest number of measles cases in the U.S. reported in the first five months of a year since 1994. Nearly all of the measles cases this year have been associated with international travel by unvaccinated people. The large number of measles cases this year stresses the importance of vaccination.

As an adjunct to health care, WIC's role is to ensure that infants and children at risk for under-immunization are referred for appropriate care. WIC played a crucial role during the last measles epidemic in the 1990s in helping to increase measles vaccination in WIC children. Measles was declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000, meaning that there was no longer continuous measles transmission for more than 12 months. The current increase in measles cases is being driven by unvaccinated people, primarily U.S. residents, who got measles in other countries, brought the virus back to the U.S. and spread to others in communities where many people are not vaccinated.

This is a good time to remind WIC local agencies of the importance of ensuring that WIC infants and children are up to date on immunizations. Infants and young children are at high risk of getting a serious case of measles, and timely vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease. WIC local agencies are required to screen and refer infants and young children in accordance with **WIC Policy Memorandum #2001-7: Immunization Screening and Referral in WIC**. Please continue to partner with State and local immunization programs to coordinate efforts to ensure that WIC children receive timely immunizations, and parents and caregivers receive appropriate information about vaccine preventable diseases such as measles.

For more information on measles, please visit:

www.cdc.gov/measles

For general information about WIC and immunizations, please visit:

<http://wicworks.nal.usda.gov/topics-z/immunizations>

WIC State Agency Director
Page 2

Thank you for continuing to be an important ally in the Nation's efforts to ensure that low-income infants and young children receive timely immunizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra R. Whitford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

DEBRA R. WHITFORD
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division