

# epiConnections

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF BOULDER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

## HPV Vaccination Rates Remain Low in Colorado

Human papillomavirus virus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 79 million people living in the United States are currently infected with HPV, and approximately 14 million people become newly infected each year - half of them are 15-24 years of age.

HPV can cause cervical cancer and other cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, and throat. CDC reports that every year in the United States approximately 17,500 women and 9,300 men are diagnosed with cancers most likely caused by HPV. Currently, there is no approved HPV test to find HPV in the mouth or throat. A few tests are available to screen for cervical cancer.

HPV vaccine is available to protect men and women from the most common types of HPV. The vaccine is recommended for females and males aged 11 or 12 years through 26 years of age. The vaccine is given in a three-dose series over a six-month period; it is important that the series is completed. Catch-up vaccines are recommended for males through age 21 and for females through age 26. The vaccine is also recommended for gay and bisexual men (or any man who has sex with a man) and men and women with compromised immune systems (including people living with HIV/AIDS) through age 26.

Estimates of Teen Vaccination Coverage Nationwide and in Colorado

Nationwide and Jurisdiction-specific Vaccination Coverage, Teens Aged 13-17 Years  
National Immunization Survey, Teen 2013

	≥1 Tdap	≥ 1 Meningococcal	HPV					
			Females			Males		
			≥ 1 dose	≥ 2 doses	≥ 3 doses	≥ 1 dose	≥ 2 doses	≥ 3 doses
Colorado	87.1%	73.6%	58.2%	50.0%	39.1%	33.5%	21.7%	9.9%
US National	86.0%	77.8%	57.3%	47.7%	37.6%	34.6%	23.5%	13.9%

CDC. National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years: United States, 2013. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). July 25, 2014.

Data from the 2013 National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) indicate that among the U.S. population, 57% of girls aged 13-17 years had received at least 1 dose of the HPV vaccine series, but only 38% had received all 3 doses in the series. HPV vaccine uptake in the United States remains lower than the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80% coverage.

Colorado data reflect national trends with 58.2% of female teens and 33.5% of male teens reporting having received 1 dose of HPV. Completion of the 3-dose HPV series is 39.1% among teen females and 13.9% among teen males.

*HPV Vaccine, continued on page 2*

## Communicable Disease Seminar and Supper is October 1, 2015

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) is again hosting the annual Communicable Disease Seminar and Supper on Thursday, October 1, 2015. We're excited to announce that Mark Thrun, M.D. will be presenting "Human Papillomavirus (HPV): Incidence, vaccination and vulnerable populations."

Mark Thrun is the Associate Director for HIV Medical Sciences at Gilead Sciences, where his focus is on HIV prevention. Previously, he was the Director of HIV and STD Prevention and Control at Denver Public Health, an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, and the Director of the Denver Prevention Training Center. He is a past co-chair of the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers and has served as a consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on HIV prevention, testing, and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

The objectives of the event are to: 1) increase understanding about the epidemiology of the disease, including a discussion of state and national data trends and high-risk populations; 2) discuss vaccination; and 3) recommend strategies for boosting vaccine compliance and reducing missed opportunities for HPV vaccination among adolescent males and females.

In addition to Dr. Thrun's presentation, the findings of an HPV vaccine rate study of Boulder County Public Health immunization clinics will be presented, along with the results of a survey of parents' concerns and beliefs related to refusing the HPV vaccine.

To find out more about the event or to register, visit [www.BoulderCountySeminarSupper.org](http://www.BoulderCountySeminarSupper.org). If you have any questions, contact Lesly Feaux at [lfeaux@bouldercounty.org](mailto:lfeaux@bouldercounty.org) or 303.413.7506.

*Submitted by Lesly Feaux, Immunization Program Specialist*



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Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program  
Emergency Management Program  
HIV/STI Outreach Program  
Immunization Program  
TB Program

# epiEye

A Look Outside Our Community  
and Around the World

## Large Outbreak of MERS-CoV in Korea

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to closely monitor the spread of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). On May 20, 2015, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) reported a case of laboratory-confirmed MERS-CoV infection, the first case in what is now the largest outbreak of MERS-CoV outside of the Arabian Peninsula. As of July 9, 185 cases in South Korea have been confirmed by the WHO. All transmission has been linked to health care facilities where MERS patients were treated.

First identified and reported in September 2012 in Saudi Arabia, MERS-CoV causes severe acute respiratory illness. As of July 3, 2015, 1,363 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV infection from 25 countries have been reported by the WHO, including at least 487 (36%) deaths. So far, all cases of MERS have been linked to countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula, including two patients who tested positive in the U.S. in May 2014; those cases were determined to be imported.

The CDC continues to recommend that health care providers throughout the U.S. be prepared to detect and manage cases of MERS. Health care providers should continue to routinely ask their patients about their travel history and consider a diagnosis of MERS in persons who meet the recently revised criteria at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/case-def.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/case-def.html). Infection control measures recommended for suspected MERS include standard, contact, and airborne precautions.

If you suspect MERS-CoV, contact the Boulder County Public Health Communicable Disease Control Program at 303-413-7500, or after hours at 303-413-7517 to facilitate testing. Guidance for MERS-CoV patients was faxed through the Health Alert Network (HAN) on June 12, 2015. If you want to be added to the HAN list, please email Linda Rae at [lrae@bouldercounty.org](mailto:lrae@bouldercounty.org).

Source: CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/>

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HPV Vaccine, continued from page 1

A January 2015 report from the CDC noted that in Colorado, "...≥ 1 dose HPV vaccine coverage was higher among girls who received a recommendation from a health care provider versus those who did not (67.0% vs. 42.9%). A higher proportion of girls received a recommendation for HPV vaccine than boys (64.4% vs. 43.3%)." This finding suggests that the best uptake for HPV vaccination occurs when medical staff recommends it.

Submitted by Lesly Feaux, Immunization Program Specialist  
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## Communicable Disease Seminar & Supper

*Human Papillomavirus (HPV):  
Incidence, vaccination, and  
vulnerable populations*

**Presentation by:**  
Mark Thrun, M.D.  
Associate Director  
HIV Medical Sciences  
Gilead Sciences, Inc

Thursday  
October 1, 2015  
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

\$15 per person  
CME credit offered

Museum of Boulder Event Center  
2205 Broadway, Boulder

Register at:  
[BoulderCountySeminarSupper.org](http://BoulderCountySeminarSupper.org)

