Health Alert

Prepared for RSV Season

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season is approaching. The timing of the RSV season is from November through March in most of the United States.¹ RSV is a respiratory virus that infects the lungs and breathing passages. Typically, people recover from RSV infection in 1-2 weeks.² Infection can be severe for infants, young children and older adults. RSV is the most common cause of inflammation of the small airways in the lung (bronchiolitis) and pneumonia in children under one year of age in the United States. RSV is also being recognized as an important cause of respiratory illness in older adults.
In a recent UIHI report, *Discussions with Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Parents: Keeping Babies Healthy and Safe*, communicable diseases like RSV, as well as pneumonia, whooping cough and H1N1, were described by parents as topics they worry most about in trying to keep their babies healthy and safe.\(^3\)

> "When they had a massive breakout of [RSV] here, my daughter was one of the kids that caught it. And she barely made it out of it, barely."

Specific groups of American Indian/Alaska Native children in certain geographic regions may experience more severe RSV disease and a longer RSV season.\(^4\) The specific reasons for this are not well known, however in the general population high RSV hospitalization rates have been associated with low socioeconomic status, environmental smoke exposure through wood- or coal-burning stoves in the home, crowding, and a lack of breastfeeding.\(^4\)

For more information on RSV, refer to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention resources: [http://www.cdc.gov/rsv/clinical/prophylaxis.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv/clinical/prophylaxis.html)

Please contact the Urban Indian Health Institute at 206-812-3030 or [info@uihi.org](mailto:info@uihi.org) for questions about this Health Alert.

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**Grants**

**Cliff Bar Family Foundation Grants: Supporting Healthy Food Systems**

Cliff Bar Family Foundation makes small Grants, averaging approximately $8,000, to nonprofit organizations supporting the environment, healthy food systems, physical activity, and building strong communities.

Applications must be received by February 15 for consideration during the first quarter of the year, and May 15, August 15, and November 15 for consideration of funding during the second, third and fourth quarters, respectively. For more information click here.

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**Training**

**Webinar: Release of Findings from the Urban Diabetes Care and Outcomes Audit Report**

**December 1, 2011, 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time** (2 p.m. Mountain, 3 p.m. Central, 4 p.m. Eastern)

Please join the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) on Thursday, December 1, 2011, to review the results of the Urban Diabetes Care and Outcomes Audit Report. This report summarizes the performance of the urban Indian health organizations’ (UIHO) diabetes programs, using data from
the 2006-2010 Indian Health Service (IHS) Diabetes Audit to track select key measures.

Highlights from this webinar include:

- Presentation of findings from the 2006-2010 aggregate report, highlighting key measures
- Review of other data available in the aggregate report, including five-year trends and comparisons to national standards
- Discussion of findings with webinar participants
- UIHI and IHS DDTP staff available to answer questions about the findings and the Diabetes Audit.

This webinar is free and open to the public. For more information about this webinar and how to join please click here.

If you have any questions or require more information please contact Elizabeth Knaster at 206-812-3032 or elizabethk@uihi.org.

Call For Abstract Proposals: 11th Native Women & Men’s Wellness Conference

The American Indian Institute is requesting abstracts for presentation at the 11th Native Women & Men's Wellness Conference, March 18-22, 2012 in San Diego, CA. The purpose of this conference is to exchange ideas and best practices across the following fields in Native wellness: behavioral health, diabetes prevention, and public health and wellness. Tribal members, professionals, practitioners, researchers, and students are all eligible to submit an abstract.

Abstracts are due November 30th. For more information click here.

Native STAND

Native STAND is a peer education curriculum for healthy decision making for Native youth and is currently being implemented in several sites across Indian Country. Centers for Disease Control and the Indian Health Service are assessing how to make this important curriculum available to more Native youth.

If you are interested in implementing Native STAND and willing to send 1-2 staff persons to training for adult facilitators in June 2012, contact Lori de Ravello at lori.deravello@ihs.gov or 505-248-4202.

Visit www.nativestand.org to view manuals, evaluations, and exciting video work done by youth participants.

More reports, resources and other information can be found on the UIHI website, www.uihi.org

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