**Primary Prevention Initiative (PPI) School Located Vaccine Clinics (SLV)**

 **Northeast Region (Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)**

**Topic: Immunizations**

**Problem Overview:** Recommendations for influenza vaccination have gradually broadened over the last decade. Vaccination of school-aged children has been recommended since 2008.In 2009 the Northeast Region collaborated with schools to administer the H1N1 flu vaccine for students on school grounds with great success.On December 1, 2011, Commissioner Dreyzehner initiated the proposal of the Northeast Region piloting a SLV project while visiting Rogersville Health Department (Hawkins County) after an interest was expressed by nursing staff. Four school systems were piloted which included Greene County, Greeneville City, Johnson County, and Unicoi County. Vaccination rates at these sites reached 10% in 2012.Due to success, SLV was also completed in 2013, and it became a PPI Immunization project in 2014.

**PPI Objective**: To reduce the spread of influenza among school children and their families while decreasing absenteeism among school children and staff; and to strengthen the health department-school working relationship in an effort to increase preparedness in the event of the need of a mass vaccination event.

**PPI Project/Activity Description**: Beginning in the spring semester for K-12 schools in Northeast, Regional Office staff met with Directors of Schools to assess interest in SLV clinics for the upcoming fall semester. Staff across the Region worked on completing SLV packets over the summer months to be sent to schools for distribution in first-of-year student paperwork. Health department SLV representatives attended teacher in-service sessions prior to the beginning of school to answer questions about the SLV process. SLV clinics were scheduled with Coordinated School Health and other school personnel. Two RN’s and one Clerical Worker made up the SLV team which was able to vaccinate 225-250 children/day. The SLV teams completed vaccines and any second dose needs before the end of the fall semester.

**PPI Project/Activity Outcome**: During the initial pilot year of four schools participating in SLV, a vaccination rate of 10% in 2012 was achieved. This pilot was expanded to all seven counties in Northeast. Since that time vaccination rates have increased from 10% in 2013 to 12.8% in 2014. Other PPI teams were initiated from this project to include Hand Hygiene and Emergency Preparedness teams.

**Highlights:** Keys to success for this PPI project included coordinating Regional Office and local health department staff to partner with school systems. This has strengthened relationships with school systems in Northeast. Out of 11 school systems, 10 participate annually. Specific partnerships for SLV include Directors of Schools, Coordinated School Health, Volunteer Mobilizers, TDH Central Office (coding/form approval/vaccine ordering), local physicians (to avoid over-ordering for the intended population), parents and teachers.

**Words of Wisdom**: Meet with Director of Schools in the spring to begin planning for the next school year. This helps identify any potential issues prior to implementation of the clinics. Promoting SLV by presenting at school staff in-service sessions prior to the school year allows for teachers and staff to understand the process. Training volunteers who help with crowd control and vaccinations prior to clinics allows for any questions to be addressed before initiating the SLV clinic.

**Project Contact**:

Kathy Snyder, Northeast Regional Nursing Director

Northeast Regional Health Office

185 Treasure Lane

Johnson City, TN 37604

katherine.snyder@tn.gov

423-979-4630