

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Our Mission

The mission of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) is the prevention of disease, disability, and death through immunization and by control of respiratory and related diseases. Our challenge is to effectively balance our efforts in the domestic and global arenas, as well as accommodate the specific needs of all populations at risk of vaccine preventable diseases from children to older adults.

Activity Snapshot

- Efforts by NCIRD's Influenza Division (ID) in surveillance systems capacity building has directly led to increases in the number of countries participating in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Influenza Surveillance Network, and in the number of influenza isolates sent to WHO Collaborating Centers (including ID) for inclusion in the strain selection process for annual vaccine design. This support also enabled countries to respond more rapidly and effectively to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and to other infectious disease threats.
- NCIRD's Global Immunization Division (GID) is a strategic partner with WHO, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and Rotary in the 20-year effort to eradicate polio, which has reduced new polio cases by 99% and restricted endemic polio transmission to four countries. GID is a founding member of the Measles Initiative, which, in partnership with the American Red Cross, United Nations Foundation, and other global partners, has reduced global measles deaths by 78% from 2000 to 2008. Rubella and congenital rubella syndrome are on the verge of elimination in the Americas.
- NCIRD's Immunization Services Division (ISD) administers the Vaccines for Children (VFC) entitlement program and the Section 317 immunization program, both of which provide vaccines, vaccine distribution services, technical assistance, and operational funding to immunization program grantees. VFC provides routinely recommended vaccines to children 18 years of age and younger who are eligible for Medicaid, uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native, or underinsured and vaccinated at a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic. Section 317 supports public health infrastructure and provides vaccines to immunization programs to meet the immunization needs of their priority populations.





NCIRD Divisions

In order for NCIRD to carry out its mission, NCIRD has five divisions to support and implement program activities and initiatives.

Division of Bacterial Diseases

The mission of the Division of Bacterial Diseases is to prevent and control illness and death from vaccine-preventable and other respiratory bacterial diseases, in the United States and worldwide, through excellence in epidemiologic and laboratory science. This office within NCIRD plays a critical role in outbreak response, diagnostic epidemiology, vaccine development, and control of respiratory and vaccine-preventable disease nationally and globally.

Division of Viral Diseases

The Division of Viral Diseases' mission is to prevent disease, disability, and death from respiratory and enteric viral diseases through immunization and other prevention measures.

Global Immunizations Division

GID is responsible for providing technical and programmatic support for strengthening routine immunization services, development of integrated surveillance systems for vaccine preventable diseases, global immunization policy and vaccine financing, and enhancing new vaccine introduction. In addition, GID participates in research activities related to measles elimination and mortality reduction, polio eradication, strategies to improve routine immunization, and strategies to integrate immunization with other child survival activities. Work in GID is done in collaboration with other divisions within CDC's Office of Infectious Diseases, foreign governments, and international partner agencies including WHO, UNICEF, the GAVI Alliance, and World Bank.

Immunization Services Division

The mission of ISD is to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases through provision of federal funds and contracts to purchase vaccine, the provision of technical and financial support of immunization programs, provider and public education, and evaluation and research.

Influenza Division

ID provides the scientific and programmatic foundation and leadership for the diagnosis prevention and control of influenza domestically and internationally. In carrying out its mission, the ID

- 1) Conducts global and domestic surveillance to guide vaccine formulation and understand the impact of influenza.
- 2) Develops policy for the prevention and control of influenza.
- 3) Conducts state of the art research to better understand the evolution, antigenicity, genetic properties, antiviral susceptibility, transmissibility, pathogenicity, immune response, and other characteristics of influenza viruses for the purpose of developing better tools for the prevention and control of influenza.
- 4) Provides international technical assistance for outbreak investigations, the expansion of laboratory and epidemiologic capacity and international and domestic training.

NCIRD Atlanta:

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