

# NMDOH News Brief

# IMMUNIZATION



NM Department of Health Immunization Program

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## NMIC Immunization Award Winners and Immunization Champions

Anna Pentler  
New Mexico Immunization Coalition

On behalf of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition, are pleased to congratulate the Immunization Award Winners and Immunization Champions this year. This is a very important accomplishment! We recognize and applaud their hard work to keep New Mexico's children protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. We are working with the Department of Health to honor these award winners with Certificates of Accomplishment that recognize their practice's notable achievements (*image below*).

We applaud their efforts in going above and beyond to keep children vaccinated. See page two for the announcement of these outstanding practices.

## Helen Hall's retirement announcement

Carol Larez  
Director of Nursing Services, SE Region



The New Mexico Department of Health, SE Region's Helen Hall, RN, will be retiring September 30th, 2019. Helen started in Public Health in August of 2000 and was hired as a Family

Planning Nurse in the Hobbs Public Health Office where she quickly learned that Public Health Nursing is a unique and exciting role, but you have to be self-motivated and willing to read and learn

**HELEN HALL RETIREMENT**  
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## NMIC Provider Award Winners

*These practices have excelled in their efforts to immunize New Mexico's children in 2018 based on NMSIIS reporting. We applaud and honor their efforts meeting Healthy People 2020 goals and in going above and beyond to keep children vaccinated.*

### Practices with childhood immunization rates greater than 80%

- ★ BCA Medical Associates, Artesia
- ★ BCA Medical Associates, Carlsbad
- ★ Cassie Health Center, Silver City
- ★ Full Bloom Pediatrics, Las Cruces
- ★ Lovington Medical Clinic
- ★ Maria G. Crawley, MD, Las Cruces
- ★ New Mexico Primary Care Group, Las Cruces
- ★ Presbyterian Rio Rancho Pediatrics
- ★ Pueblo of Isleta Health Center
- ★ UNM Hospital, Westside Family Health Center
- ★ Zuni Comprehensive Health Center

### Practices with adolescent HPV immunization rates greater than 80%

- ★ Cochiti Health Clinic, Cochiti Pueblo
- ★ Las Cruces Family Medicine
- ★ Maria G. Crawley, MD, Las Cruces
- ★ Pine Hill Health Center
- ★ Pueblo of Isleta Health Center
- ★ Pueblo Pintado Clinic, Crownpoint
- ★ Santa Ana Health Center, Bernalillo
- ★ Santa Fe Indian Hospital
- ★ Santo Domingo Pueblo Health Center
- ★ Thoreau Health Clinic
- ★ Zia Health Center, Zia Pueblo

### Immunization Champions

**Renee Despres** has worked closely with the DOH Immunization Program to increase HPV vaccination coverage by coaching providers to give a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccine to their adolescent patients and increase the number of providers doing reminder/recall for HPV vaccinations using their electronic health record system or NMSIIS. As there are areas of the state where there is provider resistance to the HPV vaccine, the hope is to be able to persuade all providers to strongly recommend the HPV vaccine to their adolescent patients.

Ms. Despres has worked tirelessly to contact all Vaccine for Children practitioners. Each of the providers receive a how-to guide on reminder recall, and a copy of their most recent HPV vaccination/completion rate. Ms. Despres then follows up nine months later with each provider to go over their rate and determine if any improvement has been made. She then works with the provider to provide further education and support them to be successful in this endeavor.

**Cynthia (Sunny) Miller**, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Resource Nurse, has worked diligently to improve flu vaccination rates throughout APS by working with school nurses who held SKIIP (School Kids Influenza Immunization Project) clinics. She provided support and encouragement



Anna Pentler; Sunny Miller, Immunization Champion; and Debbie Muscarella

# Got Shots? Report

This year, the annual Got Shots? back-to-school shot clinics had 82 providers participate from 25 counties around the state, to get children up to date with their vaccinations in time for school entry.

Tracking data from the statewide Got Shots clinics has been reported by 50% of providers and indicates that 3,125 children received 7,365 shots. Clinics reported an overall satisfaction of “A Good Turnout” on a scale of 4 out of 5. The Doña Ana County Public Health Office in Las Cruces saw the most children by far—through their clinics, 1,200 shots were given to almost 500 children. Kudos to their outstanding effort in providing back-to-school vaccinations!

Incentives were distributed to registered providers so children who received a vaccination at a Got Shots clinic were given a goodie, like a school pack, children's book, rubber duckie, sticker, or tattoo.

## NMSIIS staffing announcement

NMSIIS is in the process of recruiting a Data Analyst for the NMSIIS team. The primary duties of this position will include providing help desk customer service and working on data quality improvement. Stay tuned about updates of the approval for this new hire soon.

It's not too late for providers to report the success of their clinic! Send Got Shots tracking data to [mjune@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mjune@salud.unm.edu)

### HELEN HALL RETIREMENT

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protocols and policies. Learning how to read and follow protocols only helped to strengthen Helen's already smart and energetic way of tackling anything that she does... head on and full steam!

Everything that Helen has achieved has been accomplished by her determination to be the best and follow every rule and protocol to the letter. In April 2003, Helen began her new role as SE Region Immunization Nurse Coordinator where she quickly got to work learning every change that came about and mastered it.

Helen is well-respected in the SE Region as with the NMSIIS team and Immunization Program as well as the providers she serves. Helen is the go-to person and knows the answers or how to find the answers if she doesn't. Through the years, Helen has worked diligently to ensure the SE Region stands out through her exemplary performance and incredible work ethic. We will greatly miss her and wish her Health and Happiness in this next chapter of her life.



### IMMUNIZATION CHAMPION

#### SUNNY MILLER

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to the district's nurses who participated in the program. Sunny successfully implemented the buddy system, where nurses from schools in the same area buddy up in teams to attend and help at each other's clinic, increasing comradery and providing support to one another to ensure a safe and successful flu clinic.

Ms. Miller is an active member of the Immunization Practices Advisory Council and the Vaccine Advisory Committee. When a question arises about any aspect of vaccinations she is knowledgeable—or she knows where to get the information.

# Update on the new public portal for immunizations: **VaxViewNM**

Katie Cruz  
NMSIIS Manager

The Immunization Program is very excited about our new public portal [VaxViewNM](#) which allows individuals, parents, and guardians to access, save and/or print official immunization



records. This eliminates the need to carry around multiple or aged documents and could not be easier to use!

If you have trouble using the portal, please contact our NMSIIS Help Desk at (833) 882-6454 or (505) 827-2356. You can also update your contact information by completing the [Demographic and Contact Information Form](#) and mailing it to the program.

## NMDOH Facebook page



Although many DOH employees don't have access to social media on their work computers, we would like to share the link below for anyone interested in sharing DOH items

from their personal devices. The DOH events section of our Facebook page is being updated with community flu vaccination clinics, well water testing opportunities and more. If there's an event that you'd like to share with family, friends or community partners, [click here](#) to check out the list.

## New Mexico Health Alert Network Advisory (HAN)

Margaret Cunningham  
Vaccine and Outreach Manager

The NM Department of Health issued a HAN advisory on 9/20 to advise clinicians about an Acute Hepatitis A outbreak in Bernalillo, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba counties. The outbreak has increased to 145 cases and there have been two associated deaths since November 2018. The outbreak has primarily affected people experiencing homelessness and those using injection and/or non-injection drugs.

Transmission is typically person-to-person through the fecal-oral route. Those at risk and their contacts can be referred to their local public health office for vaccination, which is best way to prevent Hepatitis A infection. For further information, go to these links: [CDC Hep A guidance 2018 recommendations](#) and [IAC's Hep A resources](#)

### Note to providers:

*Monovalent Hep A vaccine is better for outbreak response than Twinrix because it's recommended for post-exposure prophylaxis as well as prevention.*

**Contact us**

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