

Questions and Answers about vaccinations received from Earl Bradley

Was there a problem with the vaccines given to Bradley's patients?

Allegations have been made that Earl Bradley provided diluted or expired vaccines to children in his practice. We may never know if these allegations are true or, if true, how many vaccines were given that were diluted or expired.

What does this mean for former patients of Bradley?

Our primary concern is that Bradley's former patients are appropriately protected against vaccine preventable diseases. Receiving diluted or expired vaccine will not likely cause harm by itself. However, children receiving diluted or expired vaccines may have reduced protection against certain vaccine-preventable diseases.

Are children getting sick because of this?

The Division of Public Health monitors for diseases that are prevented by vaccines. We have not seen any increase in these diseases in the community or in the state. We will continue to monitor vaccine-preventable diseases statewide and especially in Sussex County. We will look for any indication that vaccine-preventable diseases might be occurring at increased rates and inform the public promptly if that occurs.

How worried should we be about this?

Most likely the patients in Bradley's practice have some level of protection against these infections. They may have received some, if not all, of the recommended doses necessary to give them immunity against these diseases. Also, because of widespread immunization against these infections, a child's chance of catching a disease is low if everyone else is immunized.

Is there any way to know if my child received diluted or expired vaccine?

It may not be possible to determine if vaccine used with any individual child was diluted or expired. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that blood tests cannot easily and accurately tell us if individual children are fully immunized.

What should parents of Earl Bradley's patients do?

The CDC recommends that children whose vaccination history cannot be confirmed be vaccinated again. **Most importantly, talk to your child's doctor.** Because each child's situation is different, please consult with your child's doctor about additional vaccinations. Because vaccine preventable diseases can be much more serious in those with certain health conditions, it is especially important that parents of children with chronic health conditions talk with their health care providers about revaccination.

Who can we contact with questions?

Please call the Division of Public Health's Immunization Program at 1-800-282-8672 with any questions about this matter.

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