

Announcements

World Malaria Day — April 25, 2013

World Malaria Day is commemorated on April 25, the date in 2000 when 44 African leaders met in Abuja, Nigeria, and committed their countries to cutting malaria-related deaths. In the last decade, increased funding and political commitment have led to a scale-up of effective malaria prevention and control interventions, saving approximately 1.1 million lives globally and decreasing malaria mortality by nearly 25% globally and 33% in sub-Saharan Africa (1). Despite these successes, an estimated 660,000 malaria-related deaths occurred worldwide in 2010 (1). For 2013, the theme of World Malaria Day is “Invest in the Future: Defeat Malaria,” which serves as a reminder of the ultimate goal.

CDC supports global malaria efforts through the President’s Malaria Initiative, a U.S. government interagency initiative to reduce malaria incidence and mortality in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and in the Greater Mekong Subregion in Asia. This effort has helped deliver millions of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, antimalarial drugs, and rapid diagnostic test kits to ensure that everyone at risk for malaria has access to life-saving prevention and treatment. In addition, CDC conducts multidisciplinary strategic and applied research globally to increase knowledge about malaria and develop safe, effective interventions that can lead to the elimination and eventual eradication of malaria.

Additional information about CDC’s malaria activities is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria>.

Reference

1. World Health Organization. World malaria report 2012. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2012. Available at http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/world_malaria_report_2012.

National Infant Immunization Week — April 20–27, 2013

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will be observed April 20–27, 2013. An annual event since 1994, NIIW brings together local and state health departments, national immunization partners, and health-care professionals across the country to hold community activities and events highlighting the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases through immunization.

Although immunization rates for vaccines routinely recommended for children remain at or near record highs, recent outbreaks of measles and pertussis in the United States underscore the importance of maintaining high immunization rates by successfully addressing parents’ questions and concerns about childhood vaccines (1). This year, CDC developed educational and promotional materials to remind parents of the importance of vaccinating their children according to the recommended immunization schedule. For the second consecutive year, NIIW will be observed simultaneously with World Immunization Week, an initiative of the World Health Organization to promote immunization and advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination services. Additionally, the CDC Foundation and CDC will recognize recipients of the second annual CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award, which recognizes individuals for their contributions to public health through their work in childhood immunizations.

Additional information about NIIW is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw>. Additional information about World Immunization Week is available at <http://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2013/en/index.html>.

Reference

1. CDC. Notice to readers: final 2011 reports of nationally notifiable infectious diseases. *MMWR* 2012;61:624–37.