



# Mother & Child Health Coalition

## Press Release

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### Coalition Updates Health Professionals Regarding Immunization Issues

Kansas City, MO- Mid America Immunization Coalition (MAIC) will host their 9<sup>th</sup> biennial **Immunization Symposium, “On Track to Healthy People 2010” on Friday, June 19, 2009** at the Ritz Charles Conference Center in Overland Park, Kansas. A year in the planning, MAIC symposiums always include timely updates on immunization issues. **H1N1 Influenza A** and the benefits of the **stimulus package** on immunization rates are sure to be discussed.

The day-long symposium will provide continuing education credits for over **225 health care workers from across Missouri and Kansas**. “We so admire these attendees who come in order to acquire tactics and tools to help them meet the challenges of keeping the population healthy through immunizations.” says Deb Bumgardner, director of Mid America Immunization Coalition. “Of particular emphasis this year is **MAIC’s campaign to raise the rates of health care workers immunized against seasonal flu**. We are pleased to provide education from the nation’s strongest proponent of this issue. We will also present MAIC’s first ‘Silver Syringe Challenge Award’ to the area hospital with the greatest increase in immunization of health care workers over last flu season. Current events will reinforce this message.”

This year, to help public, private and school nurses realize the impact of their immunization practices, two **parents who lost children to vaccine preventable diseases** will share their pain, show how something beneficial can come from such heartbreak, and recount what should have been done to prevent it.

**Dr. William Atkinson MD, MPH**, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will deliver the keynote address, “Get on Board with What’s New.” Featured speakers include **Greg Poland, MD**, director of Mayo Clinic’s Vaccine Research Group at the Children’s Hospitals and Clinics in Minnesota; **Christopher Harrison, MD**, an infectious disease physician at Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics; **Judy Coates, RN, MS**, director of immunization initiatives for sanofi pasteur; **Leslie Maier**, board member of the National Meningitis Association; and **Julie Moise**, president of the local Ian’s Rainbow Flu Foundation.

Mid America Immunization Coalition is a program of Mother & Child Health Coalition (MCHC). MCHC promotes the health of mothers and children through community planning, education, advocacy and collaboration with organizations addressing infant mortality, immunization, childhood obesity, and child safety. More information about the 2009 Immunization Symposium is available from Anne Biswell at Mother & Child Health Coalition, 6400 Prospect, Suite 216, Kansas City, Missouri, 64132, office phone (816) 283-6242, ext. 226 or on our website, [www.mchc.net](http://www.mchc.net). **Photo and interview opportunities with speakers are available.**

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