



Illinois Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Immunization Newsletter

June 2022



COVID-19 Vaccine for Under 5, What We Know Now

In just a few weeks, it will be the littlest kids' turn to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This means infants, toddlers and preschoolers will finally be protected and parents and families will have some peace of mind after more than two years of navigating their safety. It is more important than ever that these younger age groups be vaccinated in their medical homes to ensure they are also getting their other routine vaccinations in a timely manner. We also know parents trust information about these vaccines coming from their child's pediatrician [the most](#). We are here to help you in preparing now.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Pediatric Planning Guide](#): The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) is tentatively scheduled to meet on June 14 and June 15 regarding Moderna and Pfizer's EUA request. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is anticipated to meet within several days of VRBPAC, assuming FDA authorization; the meeting(s) will be posted [here](#) once scheduled.

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have conducted clinical trials and data collection for COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months through 4 years and 6 months through 5 years, respectively. Either one or both vaccines may receive FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and CDC recommendation. Additional information will be released as it becomes available [here](#).

While there are still questions and much anticipation as to what the next steps will be, it is important to start preparing and acting now. ICAAP has created a communication and planning toolkit to help guide you. Part one of the document is meant to serve as a guide to planning for vaccinating in your clinical spaces and for communicating with parents/families about these vaccines now. Part two is meant for communicating once the vaccines are available. Please only use these materials as intended. You can find the toolkit [here](#).



IF YOU ARE NOT ENROLLED TO VACCINATE YET, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ASSISTANCE. ENROLLMENT TAKES 1-4 WEEKS DEPENDING ON YOUR I-CARE STATUS.

Upcoming Events:



June 17, 12 pm

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children under 5: What We Know Now (Part 2)

Join us for a webinar with IDPH and CDPH on 6/17. [Register on Zoom.](#)

June 21, 12–1 pm

Where We Are Now with Routine Pediatric Vaccination Coverage

Register today for a webinar on Where We Are Now with Routine Pediatric Vaccination Coverage featuring TikTok sensation, Zachary Rubin. Dr. Rubin is double board-certified pediatrician specializing in allergy and immunology. [Register on Zoom.](#) FREE CME.

Previous Webinars:

Coding Updates with Jan Blanchard, PCC

View the [recording](#) and [slides](#) from the June 8th webinar.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children under 5: What We Know Now (Part 1)

View the [recording](#) and [slides](#) from the June 9th webinar.

Visit illinoisaap.org/immunizations for more recordings.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on Vaccine Rates

An analysis in CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) of routine vaccination coverage during the 2020-2021 school year revealed that coverage for required vaccinations dropped to 94% nationally, down 1% from the previous school year. Data was reported for MMR, DTaP, and Varicella vaccines among kindergarteners in 47 states and the District of Columbia, though vaccine requirements vary by state. Only 2.2% of children not in compliance with their state's vaccination requirements had received an exemption. Although Illinois data is not reflected in the MMWR, statistics from the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) suggest similar trends are occurring in our state. The COVID-19 pandemic likely played a significant role in the decline of these routine vaccination rates. The factors include requirements waived for remote learning, access to well-child visits was limited, parents fell behind in submitting documentation, and staff struggled to keep up with reporting and follow-up efforts. A more detailed view of state-by-state data and vaccination requirements across multiple grade levels is available through interactive tools on [SchoolVaxView](#).

Vaccine Updates Corner:

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved booster shots:

- would be the third dose available for most children
- the fourth dose for immunocompromised children

Other Vaccines:

ACIP and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages combination vaccines to keep patients up to date. There is **no** brand that is preferred over another by and this information is not an endorsement of the products listed. That said, Sanofi recently reached out to staff at I-VAC and the Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) to ensure healthcare providers have information about two of their products, please see below.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information on [Meningococcal Vaccines](#) and [Immunize.org](#) information on [Meningococcal Vaccines](#)
 - Menactra® will be phased out by the summer of this year and replaced by MenQuadfi. Read more about MenQuadfi [here](#).
- CDC information on [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine](#)

Some Changes to ACIP Schedule:

- In the Haemophilus influenzae type bb vaccine row, the minimal interval between dose 2 and 3 was edited to include Vaxelis. Read more about Vaxelis [here](#).
- ActHIB, Hiberix, Pentacel, or Vaxelis*: 4-dose series (3 dose primary series at 2, 4, and 6 months, followed by a booster dose at age 12-15 months).
*Vaxelis is not recommended for use as a booster dose.
A different Hib-containing vaccine should be used for the booster dose.



For more information, please see the April 26th ACIP 2022 Updates webinar with Dr. Tina Tan: [Recording](#) and [Slides](#).

Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) Do-it-Yourself Toolkit and Outreach Materials

We are happy to announce that the I-VAC do-it-yourself toolkit and outreach bundle are available digitally and can be mailed upon request.



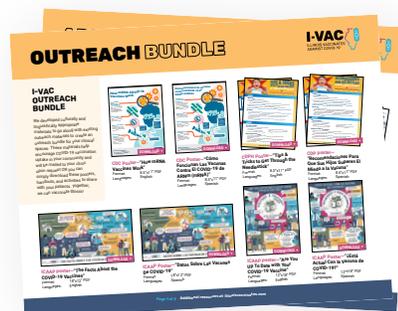
The Do-it-Yourself Toolkit

This is a one-stop-shop with up-to-date information about how you can integrate the COVID-19 vaccines into regular clinical workflows from the ground up. It is broken down into self-guided modules that cover topics including:

- Becoming a vaccinator
- Vaccine ordering, storage, and handling
- Vaccine administration
- Clinical considerations
- Increasing vaccine uptake
- And much more – including charts, one page information sheets, etc..

Every source used to compile this toolkit (guidance, policies, and procedures, etc.) around vaccine administration is linked and organized by section to ensure any additional information you might need is easy to find. The toolkit will be updated on a regular basis.

Access the digital version of the toolkit at:
illinoisvaccinates.com/toolkit



The I-VAC Outreach Bundle

This is a collection of patient-facing resources designed to help normalize COVID-19 vaccines. These posters, handouts, etc. convey medically accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines and were developed with diverse audiences and health literacy levels in mind.

Some resources are meant to be shared via social media or digitally, while others are printed out to hand directly to patients or hang in your clinical spaces. The materials cover a diverse range of topics and are available in multiple languages.

Browse the outreach bundle at:
illinoisvaccinates.com/resources



Request hard copies of the toolkit or outreach materials at illinoisvaccinates.com/contact.
E-mail facts@ilvaccinates.com with questions.

Helping Teens Talk with their Parents about Vaccines

Supporting your teen/minor patients who want to be vaccinated, when their parents or guardians don't want them to be vaccinated can be complicated. ICAAP created a handout for teens and for clinicians on how to approach these conversations between healthcare provider and teen and teen and parent/guardian. We hope you find them useful.

[Download Handout for Teens](#)

[Download Tips for Clinicians](#)





COVID-19 Prioritization Project

Project Background

A key initiative of I-VAC is to identify areas of the state with lower COVID-19 vaccine coverage and performing targeted outreach and education in those areas. This led us to the I-VAC COVID-19 Prioritization Project. This data can inform priority areas for clinicians and healthcare organizations.

Access the I-VAC Prioritization Project

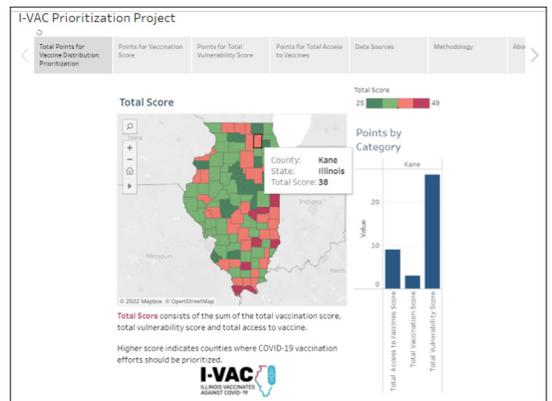
Vaccine Scores

For this project, we used several data sources and broke them into three distinct vaccine scores. These include a vaccination score, a vulnerability score, and an access score. The vaccination score measures vaccination rates in that county and includes % of the total population fully vaccinated, % 5–11-year-olds fully vaccinated, and % 12-17-year-olds fully vaccinated. The vulnerability score measures characteristics of the patient population based on the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index and COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index. The access score measures how accessible the COVID-19 vaccines are and includes the rate of primary care physicians, rate of certified pediatricians, and rate of locations that are currently providing the COVID-19 vaccines.

Then each variable was broken down into quartiles and given a score. Scores for each variable within the category were totaled to create a Total COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Score. Counties with the highest scores should be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and outreach efforts.

Data Sources

The sources for these data include IDPH, CDC, census.gov, countyhealthranking.org, and apb.org. You can find a detailed list of the sources and how they were used on the dashboard under the ‘Data Sources’ tab. The dashboard is being updated monthly.



Vaccination score Represents vaccination rates
Your county scored: (insert number in corresponding color)

- Action items for Vaccination Score
- For lower scores (light and dark green)
 - Prepare communication and outreach materials for when additional age groups are eligible.
 - Utilize items and social media images created by I-VAC, available [here](#).
 - Be flexible in vaccine distribution models.
 - Respond rapidly to eligibility changes.
 - For higher scores (orange and red), follow all the above plus:
 - Evaluate your institution’s current recall/reminder strategies.
 - Ensure all communication messages and methods are effective and efficient.
 - Find tips and sample messages from the AAP [here](#).
 - Use culturally and linguistically appropriate and up-to-date images and information on outreach materials.
 - Utilize items and social media images created by I-VAC, available [here](#).
 - Use [motivational interviewing](#) to understand and not judge a patient’s mistrust in the vaccine and answer any questions you can.



We hope you will find this information helpful for supporting your COVID-19 vaccination programs!

