How Pediatricians Can Fight Misinformation Online

Many pediatricians are active on social media and should have the tools to fight online misinformation. However, tech companies have not done enough to prioritize users’ mental health and safety but rather focus narrowly on profits and increasing engagement. Author, Nusheen Ameenuddin, summarizes conversations with Meta whistleblower, Frances Haugen, and members of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to offer guidance on how pediatricians can address online misinformation about life saving vaccines and other health information and keep kids protected online.

First, social media platforms should be held accountable for not addressing misinformation on their platforms. AAP has endorsed several bills that will address the need for social media platforms to recognize, moderate, and remove misinformation.

Another effective strategy is to report misinformation that you see. It is best to not engage by liking, commenting, or sharing the content. By engaging with misinformation, it can trigger an algorithm that will show it to more users. Pediatricians should also encourage colleagues and family to report the same accounts. The more reports an account has the more likely they are to be shut down. Another way to better coordinate reporting is for pediatricians to contribute to or create their own database of accounts that are consistently sharing misinformation. Lastly, youth perspectives and needs should be incorporated into the decision-making process of policies meant to keep them safe. Children and teens are very active online especially on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. So, if you are a pediatrician that is active on social media, please consider fighting back misinformation to keep kids safe.
Upcoming Events:

**July 19, 12 pm**

**Maximizing Vaccine Uptake in Your Practice**

The ICAAP immunizations team will be hosting a webinar on maximizing vaccine uptake in your practice with Dr. Susan Sirota on Tuesday, July 19th at 12PM. Register here today!

**July 28, 12 pm**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials Summary**

ICAAP is hosting a webinar with members of the medical team from Moderna and Pfizer. This webinar will provide information on clinical trial information for COVID-19 vaccines for newly eligible pediatric populations. We hope you find this information not only informational but, that it will aide you in answering questions from patients about the trials. The webinar will NOT be recorded. Please register here.

**August 16, 12 pm**

**Back to School (ICAAP Immunization Webinar Series 2022)**

The ICAAP immunizations team will also be hosting a webinar on back-to-school immunizations with Dr. Marielle Fricchione on Tuesday, August 16th at 12PM. Register here today!

**August 25, 12 pm–1 pm**

**Lead Poisoning Prevention for Children Webinar**

**Thursday, August 25, 2022, Noon-1pm** with Dr. Helen Binns, MD, MPH the Director of Lead Evaluation Program at Lurie Children’s Hospital will be presenting. The presentation will explore the harmful impact of lead on children, the decline in childhood blood testing during the pandemic, and how screening can aid in prevention. Register here!

Vaccine Updates Corner:

1. **COVID-19 vaccines for children as young as 6 months have been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA and have been recommended for use by the CDC. New products are available for these younger age groups.**

   A Moderna product is available for kids 6 months through 5 years and consists of (2) 0.25 mL/25 mcg doses 4-8 weeks apart.

   Those 6-11 will receive at least (2) 0.5mL/50mcg doses and those 12+ will receive at least (2) 0.5mL/100mcg doses (the same as for those 18+).

   A Pfizer product is also available for children 6 months through 4 years and consists of (3) 0.2 mL doses. The first two doses are administered 3 weeks apart, and the third is 8 weeks after the second.

   These authorizations have been highly anticipated, as **case and hospitalization rates** among younger age groups have steadily increased throughout the course of the pandemic.

   These vaccines were delivered starting the week of 6/20/22 and preliminary data demonstrates that about 12,000 doses were administered to 0-4 year olds in the first week of availability. Please review the [CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations on Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/interim-clinical-considerations-covid-19-vaccines.pdf) for complete dosing and scheduling details.

2. **On June 7, 2022 the FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) recommended that EUA be granted for a fourth COVID-19 vaccine product produced by Novavax. At this time, the FDA has not yet granted the EUA, as they work on reviewing changes to the company’s manufacturing process. The Novavax vaccine would expand COVID-19 vaccine options in the US as the first protein-based option, compared to Pfizer and Moderna’s mRNA vaccines and Janssen’s viral-vector vaccine.**

Receiving Multiple Vaccines at Once

It is safe to co-administer COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccinations. In fact, the AAP recommends doing so in order to avoid delayed or missed immunizations in childhood. Check out the [COVID Vaccine Checklist for Kids](https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aapolicy-center/pediatric-care-focus-areas/pediatric-care-focus-areas-preventing-disease/vaccine-schedules.cfm) for more information on recommended vaccine schedules and where COVID-19 vaccines fit in.
Reinfection Information

As we continue this Omicron wave, we are seeing more frequently people getting reinfected with COVID-19. While this is expected, it is perhaps not being discussed as often as it should (COVID-19 fatigue is real for all of us). One study found that COVID-19 reinfection doubles the risk of mortality and triples the risk of hospitalization for some high-risk groups. More data is still needed to draw conclusions on reinfection's effects on hospitalization, long COVID, and mortality for all groups. However, we do know that it remains important to encourage patients to wear appropriate masks, socially distance, and stay up to date with vaccines and boosters.

Videos for Parents on Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines

- If you know parents looking for COVID-19 vaccine information as they decide about vaccination of their children younger than 5 years of age, you may want to alert them to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s new playlist on the Vaccine Makers Project YouTube channel. The playlist includes about a dozen videos that provide the perspectives of several pediatricians and parents on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination of children as well as how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work and how they were tested.
- Sesame Street videos to help education children and caregivers about COVID-19 vaccines for younger age groups available here.

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide

New resource from the American Academy of Pediatrics!

Download Here

Bootcamp September Cohort

The next cohort of our COVID-19 vaccine bootcamp will be on Friday, September 23rd from 8AM-12:15PM.

Register Here Today!

Updated Toolkit

The I-VAC team has worked to revise the do-it-yourself toolkit to reflect changes related to additional eligible age groups and updated clinical guidance through June 13, 2022.

Please see here for the most updated version:

www.illinoisvaccinates.com/toolkit