Polio

A case of poliovirus was identified in New York. Physicians and other healthcare providers should be aware of disease prevention and symptomology should local community transmission occur. Providers should ensure that their patients are vaccinated in a timely manner and are staying up to date on their poliovirus vaccinations.

- Poliovirus symptoms occur in 1 out of every 4 people and can start within hours, days, and up to 3 weeks from exposure.
- Symptoms include: gastrointestinal disease with fever, sore throat, body aches, abdominal pain, and malaise. These symptoms can lead to acute flaccid weakness or death.
- To aid in diagnosis, healthcare staff should take a medical history, travel history, neurological examination, tab test, and an MRI of the spine and brain. A stool specimen is the gold standard for diagnosing poliovirus.
- Recent international travel where poliovirus has been detected and circulating, exposure to someone infected with poliovirus, being unvaccinated, under vaccinated, or are unaware of their poliovirus vaccination status are all risk factors for polio.

If you suspect a poliovirus case, report it immediately to your local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health Infectious Disease Control Section at 217-782-2016. For further guidance on reporting, check out this reporting algorithm from IDPH! Asking about vaccination status at every visit is best practice to ensure there are no missed opportunities for vaccinations.

Monkeypox

The risk of monkeypox infection among children is low, with 17 pediatric cases and 134 cases in adolescents as of August 21, 2022. However, the AAP has published a RedBook on the outbreak, offering clinical and vaccination guidance.
Flu Guidance/Flu Toolkit

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has published their 2022-2023 guidance for influenza vaccination, recommending vaccination for anyone 6 months and older who does not have a contraindication. Check out ICAAP’s flu toolkit for:

- A summary of the 2022/2023 flu season recommendations
- Where to find important resources from the CDC, AAP, and others
- 30 ready to share social media images, social media messaging and a ready-to-print poster for your clinical spaces!

Upcoming Events:

COVID-19 Vaccine Bootcamp
COVID-19 vaccine bootcamp on Friday, September 23rd from 8 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Register here today!

I-VAC Office Hours
I-VAC office hours offer opportunities for providers to ask any of their COVID-19 vaccine implementation questions in a casual, virtual setting. Join us for the whole hour or for 5 minutes on one of these days: 9/22, 9/27, 10/4, 10/14. Learn more

Lead Poisoning Prevention for Children Webinar
September 27th from 12–1 p.m. Register here today!

How to Have Conversations About Vaccines Without Bias
October 18th from 12–1 p.m. Register here today!

Vaccine Updates Corner:

1. Pfizer and Moderna bivalent COVID-19 booster doses have been authorized by the FDA and recommended for use in those 12 years and older. The bivalent vaccine helps generate protection against two variants of the virus; the original COVID-19 virus and the Omicron BA.4/5 variant, which is now the cause of most COVID-19 infections in the U.S. The Pfizer bivalent booster is authorized for use in those 12 years and older and the Moderna bivalent booster is authorized for those 18 years and older who have completed their primary series. The original (monovalent) boosters are no longer authorized for use in those 12 years and older. The original monovalent vaccine formulations have NOT changed and there are no changes to the COVID-19 vaccine schedules for children ages 6 months through 11 years old. Updated dosing and scheduling charts are available. A bivalent booster may be authorized for younger age groups (5 years and older?) in the coming weeks or months.

2. Novavax 12+
   The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized for use in those 12 years and older as of August 19, 2022 (it was previously authorized for 18 years and older). This protein-based vaccine expands COVID-19 vaccine options for those interested in a more “traditional” vaccine formulation.

3. A safety review of Pfizer’s COVID-19 booster dose for 5–11 years old revealed that the most commonly reported adverse event was vaccine administration errors. Of 581 reports to VAERS for this age group and vaccine dose, 578 were classified as non-serious, and 413 of those were related to vaccine administration errors. These events may include errors such as product preparation issues, incorrect dose administered, or product administered to patient of inappropriate age. To help prevent these errors, providers should use the resources available in this toolkit, including printable dosage charts and storage, handling, and preparation information.
COVID-19 Vaccinator Hero Award
ICAAP would like to recognize and celebrate the amazing pediatric teams across the state that have been doing incredible work around COVID-19 vaccine administration. This month, please join us in congratulating the staff at Bard and Didriksen Pediatrics for giving over 3,000 doses since March 2021!

Thank you for all your hard work!

Vaccine Report Cards
County-level pediatric vaccine report cards are being sent monthly by ICAAP to local health departments, hospital leadership, vaccine coordinators, and clinicians throughout the state starting in September. These report cards show the percentage of eligible children ages 6 months–4 years, 5–11 years, and 12–17 years in each county who have received each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The hope is that this information will be useful in understanding local vaccine coverage. The report cards will also include action items to help drive vaccine uptake. If you would like to receive this report card for your county, please reach out to Caroline Werenskjold at cwerenskjold@illinoisaap.com.

When a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card is Full:

1. Complete a new card for the patient
2. Staple both cards together
3. Encourage the patient to photograph both cards in case they become separated
4. Both cards should be brought to future vaccination appointments

Patients can also download their vaccine records with VaxVerify.

COVID-19 Vaccination Intentions, Concerns, and Facilitators Among U.S. Parents of Children Ages 6 Months through 4 Years
As of September 5, 2022, only 8% of children ages 6 months–4 years in Illinois have received at least 1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This is concerning, as it is lower vaccine coverage at the same point in eligibility as older, previously approved age groups.

A study conducted among parents of children younger than 5 years old found that only half indicated that they would “definitely” or “probably” vaccinate their child once they became eligible. One-fifth of parents indicated they would vaccinate within three months of them becoming eligible for vaccination. Top concerns include vaccine safety and efficacy, while receiving information on safety and efficacy serves as a facilitator for vaccination. Doctor’s offices continue to be the most trusted vaccination site for parents of younger children and a pediatricians’ strong recommendation is a driving factor in a parent’s decision to vaccinate.

Please use this information to help advise your vaccine activities and talk with parents about COVID-19 vaccine whenever time allows.

Some parents may not know their children are eligible to be vaccinated!