Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Children:
Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

On June 22, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended use of PCV15 as an option for pneumococcal conjugate vaccination of persons aged <19 years. PCV13 and PCV15 can be used interchangeably and can be administered at the same time as other vaccines. PCV 15 can be administered according to currently recommended PCV13 dosing and schedules. Use of PCV15 as an alternative is expected to further reduce pneumococcal disease incidence in children adolescents. Read the full MMWR report here.

United States confirmed as country with circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus

On September 13th, the US was confirmed as a country with circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus. The country met the World Health Organization’s criteria for this distinction as a result of poliovirus identified in the case of paralytic polio in an unvaccinated adult in New York and in several wastewater samples from communities near the patient’s residence. Vaccine-derived poliovirus is not caused by children receiving the polio vaccine, as the oral polio vaccine has not been used in the US since 2000. Vaccination remains the best way to prevent polio infection.
Upcoming Events:

**I-VAC Office Hours**

I-VAC office hours offer opportunities for you to ask your COVID-19 vaccine implementation questions in a casual, virtual setting. Join us from 12-1PM for the whole hour or for 5 minutes on one of these days: 10/20, 10/25, 11/2. Learn more

**Webinar:**

How to Have Conversations About Vaccines Without Bias

October 18th from 12–1 p.m. with Dr. Rupali Limaye, Deputy Director at the International Vaccine Access Center. Register here today!

FROM THE AAP:

**Consider pediatricians, children before commercialization of COVID vaccines**

The AAP is urging federal officials to reduce the burdens of administering COVID-19 vaccines, especially as they prepare for commercial distribution.

"Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines now — when most adults have received the vaccines but most younger children have not — has the potential to leave children behind," AAP President Moira A. Szilagyi, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, wrote in a letter to Ashish Jha, M.D., White House COVID-19 response coordinator. Read the news here.

**Vaccine Updates Corner:**

1. As of 10/12/22, bivalent or “updated” boosters have been authorized by both the FDA and CDC for use in children 5 years and older. The new Pfizer updated booster is authorized for use in those ages 5-11 who have completed their primary series and the Moderna updated booster is authorized for use in those ages 6 year and older who have completed their primary series. Age-appropriate updated boosters can be administered at least two months after a person’s last COVID-19 vaccine. With this authorization, Pfizer's monovalent booster is no longer authorized for use in those ages 5-11. Learn more through these fact sheets:

   - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 5 through 11 Years of Age
     - Dilute Before Use
     - Download Fact Sheet

   - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 12 Years of Age and Older
     - Do Not Dilute
     - Download Fact Sheet

   - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 6 Years of Age and Older

2. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) acknowledges a study that has been published which identifies a non-clinically significant correlation between COVID-19 vaccination and an increase in menstrual cycle length. The average increase is by less than one day, is temporary, and typically resolves within two cycles. A change in menstrual cycle length of up to 8 days is considered normal. ACOG recommends that everyone 6 months and older receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

3. The AAP has released their 2022-2023 Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children. This guidance urges everyone 6 months and older to receive a flu vaccine as soon as possible, preferably before Halloween. Families are encouraged not to underestimate the impact of flu or COVID-19, as both can have serious, deadly impacts on children. Flu vaccines can safely be co-administered with COVID-19 and other vaccines, which is recommended to avoid missing doses. You can also refer to ICAAP’s flu toolkit for additional guidance and outreach materials.
gain knowledge
Clinical guidance around COVID-19 vaccines has and continues to change. Ensure your facility and staff are up to date on COVID-19 vaccine best practices.

connect with peers
While gaining skills related to COVID-19 vaccine administration and distribution. Learn strategies for overcoming vaccine hesitancy through culturally and linguistically appropriate methods.

get free CME/CE
The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics designates each live conference for a maximum of 4.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Nurses and Nurse Practitioners can submit Certificates of Attendance to their accrediting board to claim credit for participation in the live conference.

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2022
9AM TO 2PM
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED
MALCOLM X COLLEGE
1900 W JACKSON BLVD,
CHICAGO, IL 60612
REGISTER AT
ILLINOISAAP.ORG/EVENTS
OR
SCAN ME
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 Mundelein Pediatrics for giving over 4,500 doses since March 2021!
Thank you for all your hard work!

Interview with Dr. Sirota

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination rates are low as we enter an unpredictable fall and winter season. Vaccination is an important tool as we start to spend more time indoors with less disease transmission protocols in place. ICAAP Immunizations Director, Stephanie Atella, interviewed Dr. Susan Sirota, Chair of PediaTrust, LLC, who has accomplished great COVID-19 vaccination rates in her practice to learn more about what she and her colleagues are doing. Read excerpts from the conversation below or check out the entire interview here.

Can you go into more detail about what a culture of supporting COVID-19 vaccines looks like?

Every pediatric practice is struggling with staffing. We know this. So, we had to create an organized, efficient process for vaccinating. We prioritized that. We have pictures of staff being vaccinated posted on our social media. Many of us have COVID-19 vaccine stickers on our laptops that patients and families can see. We have marketing materials, some we made and some we take from ICAAP or I-VAC toolkits, in our office and on social media. We send email notifications to patients, and we even have vaccine information on our hold message.

So, we have worked to create consistent messaging from the top to the bottom in our spaces and I really believe that is key. Everyone at our office understands the message we want to convey around COVID-19 vaccines – the nurses, front desk staff, schedulers, MAs and all the doctors. We also require staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for all our patient-facing staff. Not only does this make our patients feel safe in our offices, but we ensure a team culture that is supportive of giving all children COVID-19 vaccines.

What kind of things are you doing to ensure staff stay up to date with the changes that keep coming out around these vaccines?

We have townhalls for staff. They are held during the day when we know staff can attend and they are also recorded and posted to our staff hub for those who cannot make it. They are not required, but we get great attendance, and we hold them as needed to make sure that everyone knows what the clinical guidelines state.

You must create vaccine champions at your clinic, and it doesn’t have to be the clinician. In fact, maybe it shouldn’t be since pediatricians are exhausted. Empower people in your office to be that for you.

What is something you want your peers who are not vaccinating in their spaces to know?

This might not be everyone’s favorite thing to hear, but from a business perspective, this is an opportunity. It took long hard work to get payments for routine vaccination administration to go from $6 to $16 dollars – and we really thank ICAAP for making that happen – but, these vaccines are paid almost 3 times that amount. Relatively, that’s such a high payment, so there is revenue to be made. It is kind of unbelievable actually. It just makes sense to do this on so many levels.

Also, ICAAP has tremendous resources, and we make sure that someone from our office goes to all the trainings or webinars that you hold around COVID-19 vaccines so we stay informed.