



Illinois Chapter

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

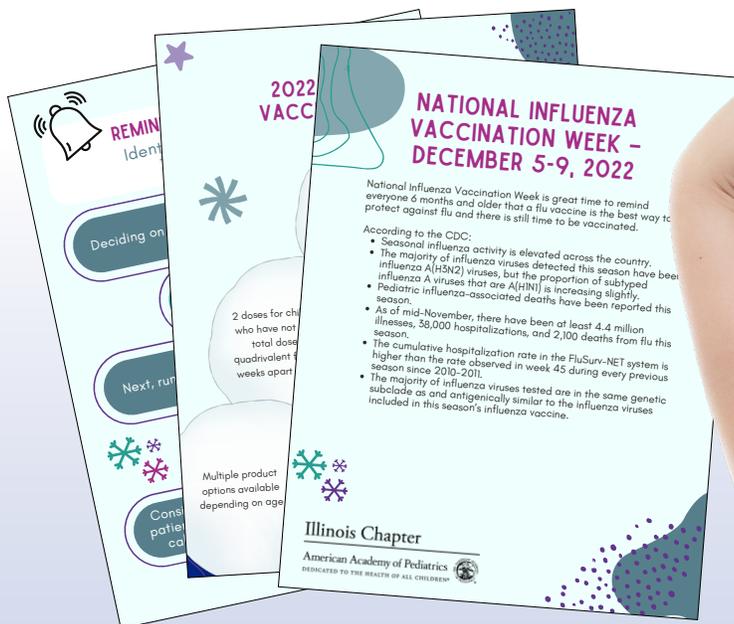


# Immunization Newsletter

December 2022

## National Influenza Week Toolkit

National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 5-9! With a particularly early and aggressive respiratory virus season settling in, [12 pediatric flu deaths](#) have already been reported in the US (as of 11/29/22). This week serves as a reminder that everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine and that it is not too late in the season to get vaccinated. Check out our [National Influenza Vaccination Week Toolkit](#) for guidance, resources, and social media images to share.



# Measles is Now Being Reported in the US

While vaccination rates overall remain strong, there can be pockets of low community vaccination coverage due to vaccine hesitancy, high population density, the closed social nature of some affected communities, and repeated introduction of measles from unvaccinated international travelers. All of these factors can contribute to communities becoming vulnerable to measles.

CDC encourages clinicians to make sure that all patients are up-to-date on MMR vaccinations and other recommended vaccines. CDC recommends that children receive two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine with the first dose between 12 and 15 months of age, and the second dose between 4 and 6 years of age.

Also:

- Be vigilant about identifying and reporting suspected measles cases.
- Consider measles in cases with fever and rash and other symptoms of measles such as cough, runny nose, or conjunctivitis, especially if the person recently traveled internationally or was exposed to a person with fever and rash.
- Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles to avoid spread of the disease and immediately report any suspected measles case (more info on reporting to the Chicago Department of Health Chicago [here](#) and reporting to the Illinois Department of Public Health [here](#)).
- Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles, including viral specimens for genotyping, which can help determine the source.

Infants can get the vaccine as early as 6 months old if they are traveling outside of the U.S. Many people may not be aware of the [alternative vaccination schedules](#) recommended when traveling abroad, so it's often up to you to ask parents with small children if they may be traveling.



## Upcoming Events

### [December Immunizations Webinar](#)

December immunizations webinar: *Vaccinations – Back to Basics* with Dr. Nadia Qureshi. Tuesday, 12/20 from 12–1 p.m.

[Register here.](#)



### [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 as long as you need assistance!

Day	Date	Time	Advisor
Wednesday	December 7	8 a.m.	Jennifer Burns, APN
Thursday	December 15	12 p.m.	Dr. Jonathon Necheles
Tuesday	December 20	8 a.m.	Dr. Nisha Dasani
Thursday	January 5, 2023	12 p.m.	Kristin Metzler, RN
Wednesday	January 11, 2023	8 a.m.	Dr. Daniel Lau
Wednesday	January 18, 2023	12 p.m.	Dr. Edward Linn



### Join Us on Zoom!

Scan the QR code or visit the following link to join our office hours session on Zoom:

[bit.ly/ivac-office-hours](https://bit.ly/ivac-office-hours)

# Vaccine Updates Corner:

## 1. Holiday Vaccine Shipping Schedules



- To ensure delivery in December, please submit vaccine orders by December 9, 2022.
- Limited deliveries will occur between December 15 and December 21, 2022, for vaccines ordered before the ordering deadline.
- No vaccine will be delivered between December 22, 2022 and January 3, 2023.
- No vaccine will be delivered on January 2 or January 3, 2023.
- Post-holiday deliveries will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.
- No vaccine will be delivered on January 16, 2022.



- Orders approved by Friday, December 9th will ship before the holiday pause.
- Any orders that are submitted without updated/correct inventories, incomplete temperature logs, or other errors may not be able to be approved and may delay shipments.
- Orders submitted after December 9th will still be processed and may ship before the holiday shipping pause.
- Orders that do not ship will be sent starting on January 3rd, 2023.

## 2. AAP Working with White House on COVID Vaccine Commercialization Concerns

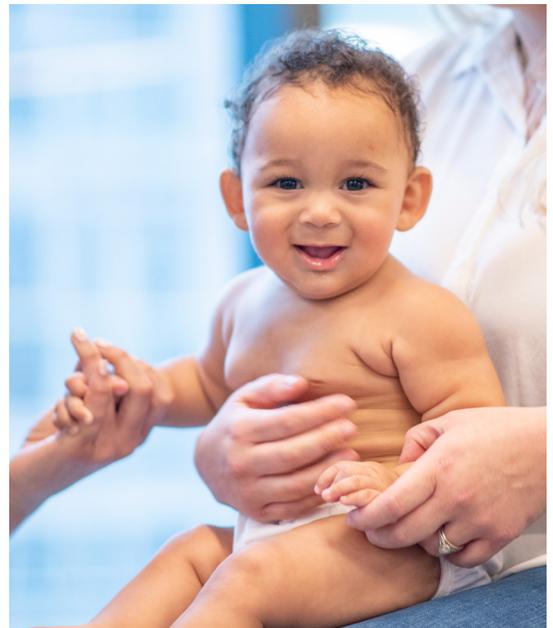
The AAP recently met with White House officials to discuss concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine commercialization, including increasing administrative burden on providers and creating a barrier for children to be vaccinated. The AAP [outlined several strategies](#) to help address these concerns and will continue to advocate for pediatricians and children as the commercialization process approaches.

## 3. Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for 6 Months+

It is expected that the FDA and CDC will authorize the use of bivalent COVID-19 vaccines in those 6 months and older in early-mid December. The Pfizer BioNTech bivalent vaccine will likely be authorized for use as the third dose in the primary series for those 6 months-4 years and the Moderna bivalent vaccine will likely be authorized as a booster after the 2 dose primary series for those 6 months-5 years. Learn more through the CDC's [Fall Vaccination Operational Planning Guide](#) and view the recording of ICAAP's just-in-time webinar on the rollout [here](#).

## 4. Combination Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

Pfizer BioNTech has started a phase 1 trial of a single dose combination vaccine candidate for flu and COVID-19. The vaccine combines the company's modRNA-based influenza vaccine candidate and their Omicron-specific bivalent COVID-19 vaccine. The first phase of the trial will enroll 180 individuals ages 18-64. Learn more [here](#).





## 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 **Redbird Pediatrics** for giving over 1,500 doses since May 2021!

**Thank you for all your hard work!**

## New Vaccines Available to Order for VFC/CHIP Program Providers

A new pneumococcal vaccine (Vaxneuvance) and a new MMR vaccine (Priorix) will be available for VFC/CHIP program providers to order beginning on December 1, 2022.

In June, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended use of PCV15 (Vaxneuvance) as an alternative to Prevnar 13 for 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 and adolescents. Prevnar 20 has not yet been approved for use in children.

Priorix is the second measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) combination vaccine authorized for use in the United States in those 12 months and older. M-M-R-II will still be available and both vaccines are interchangeable for all indications for which MMR vaccination is recommended. Storage requirements for the 2 products do differ, as Priorix must be stored at refrigerated temperatures of 2-8°C and must not be stored frozen.

When placing orders in December for either Vaxneuvance or Priorix, providers must state in the comment box their desire to switch from Prevnar 13 to Vaxneuvance or from M-M-R-II to Priorix. Direct ordering through I-CARE will be available in January 2023. Learn more about these new vaccines and ordering procedures [here](#).



## Recommendations for Use of Cholera Vaccine in Children

Vaxchora is a single dose oral vaccine that was recommended by the FDA and CDC in 2016 for the prevention of Cholera in adults ages 18–64. In February 2022, ACIP voted to recommend use of Vaxchora for the prevention of Cholera in those ages 2–17 who are traveling to areas of active transmission. The AAP endorses this recommendation and has [updated Red Book](#) with the corresponding guidance.

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