



Illinois Chapter

INCORPORATED IN ILLINOIS

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Immunization Newsletter

March 2023

Tdap Vaccination During Pregnancy Linked to Lower Pertussis Rates in Newborns

Vaccinating during pregnancy can not only help the mom, but can also provide important protection to the infant. Based on a [recent study](#) published on administering the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) vaccine to pregnant women, infants younger than 2 months were found to have a significant decrease in pertussis incidence. Rates were at 165 cases/ 100,000 infants before maternal vaccination and dropped to 121 cases on an annual period with vaccination. Recently, the number dropped down to 81 cases per 100,000 infants. However, as of 2019, only 55% of pregnant women were vaccinated, despite the reduction in pertussis incidence in infants less than 2 months. Vaccinating pregnant women during the recommended 27-36 week time period will ensure infants can receive the protective antibodies to fight pertussis.



2023 Immunization Schedule

The [2023 Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is now available. Significant updates include:

- The addition of COVID-19 vaccines.
- New products: Priorix (MMR) and PCV15

[Updates to the schedule](#) are released annually and include guidance for catch-up vaccinations. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other leading organizations support these recommendations. Schedules are carefully determined to provide a roadmap for providers and parents to help protect children as best as we can by ensuring vaccines are delivered when an individual's immune system is ready and when protection is needed most.

Test your knowledge on the 2023 vaccine schedule with [this quiz](#) from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).



Vaccine Updates Corner:

1. COVID-19 a Leading Cause of Pediatric Deaths

COVID-19 ranked as the eighth [leading cause of death](#) between April 2020 and August 2022 for children ages 0-19 in the United States. When looking at only disease-related causes of death (not accidents, assaults, or suicide), COVID-19 becomes the FIFTH leading cause of death in this age group. Although the pediatric COVID-19 mortality rate is low, it is important to understand the impact of COVID-19 in the context of other pediatric deaths. Also remember, it is rare for kids to die from any cause. In the U.S., children continue to be the least vaccinated group against COVID-19, with only 5% of children under five years old and 32% of children 5-11 years old having completed their primary series. 58% of children 12-17 years old have [completed their primary series](#). Providers should continue to recommend that children and families complete all COVID-19 vaccines they are eligible for. Making this recommendation and being prepared to discuss how vaccination benefits outweigh the risk with parents and guardians is important.



2. Remaining Up-to-Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Impact on COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality

We know that protection from COVID-19 following the completion of the primary vaccination series wanes over time – that is why we need boosters. A [recent study](#) published in CDC’s MMWR examined the effectiveness of a bivalent COVID-19 booster compared to the monovalent booster or no booster at all in preventing infection and death over time among people ages 12 years and older. The study found that those with bivalent boosters had greater protection from COVID-19 infection and death than both un-boosted and the monovalent boosted groups. More information is needed to understand the longevity of protection, but the CDC and AAP continue to strongly recommend that everyone stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines by receiving a bivalent booster if eligible.

Advisory Group

We are seeking a diverse group of stakeholders (local health department representatives, clinicians, school health staff members, other community partners) to join an advisory group that supports the Illinois Department of Public Health’s immunization initiatives. ICAAP is hoping to recruit those who focus on pediatric and adolescent populations. The advisory group will help inform future immunization outreach and education for clinicians and community members in the specific region with which they work. Applicants must serve at least one of the following counties, or the [south district](#) of Cook County.

- DuPage
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Lake
- Champaign
- Cumberland
- Livingston
- Macon
- Knox
- Peoria
- Rock Island
- Tazewell
- Boone
- DeKalb
- Lee
- Winnebago



[Learn more and apply here](#)



Availability of COVID-19 Vaccine Products

Meetings and Updates on COVID-19 Vaccines

Both the Food and Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee ([VRBPAC](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) have demonstrated support for harmonizing primary and booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Harmonizing means using bivalent products only. **You must continue to follow the current CDC guidelines and vaccine schedules on which COVID-19 products are to be used and when. This may be a challenge given the following update on ordering:**

Some Monovalent Vaccine Products Expiring and No Longer Available to Order

Moderna:

- All Moderna *monovalent* products for those 6 years and older are set to expire at the beginning of April, **without plans to extend the shelf-life**. The Moderna 6-11 years and 12+ years monovalent products ordered in the next few weeks will be short-dated with expirations in early April.
- The last time to order Moderna monovalent products for ages 6+ from [IDPH](#) (sites OUTSIDE of Chicago) was 3/13/23.
- Chicago providers should follow [CDPH guidance](#). Chicago shipping of Moderna *monovalent* products ended 3/5/23 for ages 12+ and 3/12/23 for ages 6-11.
- Moderna *bivalent* products will still be available to order for all age groups. Due to a limited supply of this vaccine for the under 5 age group, the minimum order quantity is being reduced from 100 doses to 20 doses. Ancillary kits will still be shipped to support 100 doses, so please opt out of receiving ancillary kits when placing vaccine orders if you have enough supplies.

Providers who are still seeking Moderna monovalent products for these age groups should check the [State Reallocation Tool](#).

Pfizer:

- Pfizer *monovalent* products will be the only option to complete primary series vaccination for ages 6-11.
- Pfizer *monovalent* products and Novavax are available to be ordered as a primary series option for ages 12+.
- There is no official guidance from IDPH on ordering monovalent Pfizer products. CDPH has released the following information regarding Pfizer expiration dates and shipping deadlines:

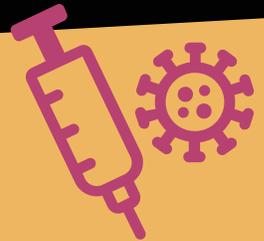
Monovalent Vaccine	Date when all USG doses expire	End of Shipping (due to <30 days of shelf-life)
Pfizer Peds (5–11, monovalent)	5/21/23	5/21/23
Pfizer Under 5 (monovalent)	7/2/23	6/25/23
Pfizer (12+, monovalent)	8/6/23	7/3/23

Please use the CDC’s guidance on Special Situations for COVID-19 Vaccination of Children and Adolescents [here](#). If you have questions regarding these updates, please reach out to the [ICAAP immunizations team](#) or request support from your [regional advisor](#).

CLINICIANS, IT'S YOUR TURN

Join your peers for a discussion
on vaccine misinformation,
disinformation, and
hesitancy...where we have
been and where we go next.

Two sessions available:
March 29th @ 8am
or
March 30th @ 12PM
Registration required.



Includes live
note-taking by
Ink Factory

Scan QR code or visit
illinoisaap.org/events



A project led by the Illinois Chapter
of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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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 **Sanders Court Pediatrics** for giving over 2,000 doses since March 2021!

Thank you for all your hard work!

2022-2023 Pediatric Flu Deaths Surpass 100

We have reached an unfortunate milestone in which over [100 children](#) have died during this current flu season. Last flu season (2021-2022) there were a total of 45 deaths. The vaccine for this flu season is 68% effective in preventing influenza-A related hospitalizations, which has been the most prevalent strain. The highest risk of severe complications remains for those two years and younger. Flu vaccine saves lives and it is important to always provide a strong vaccine recommendation to parents. We can also use clinical support tools to reach parents and reinforce in-clinic vaccination recommendation with a text message reminder. A text message reminder after a clinician recommendation has shown [increased flu vaccine uptake](#). You can stay up to date with the latest flu trends with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](#) and the Illinois Department of Public Health's [Flu Activity Report](#).

Upcoming Events

[HPV Vaccine Webinar](#)

Tuesday, March 21st, 12 p.m.: ICAAP Immunizations Webinar – HPV Vaccination.

[Register here.](#)

[Bright Smiles from Birth Training Webinar](#)

Join us on **Wednesday March 22nd, 2023 at 12 p.m.** for a BSFB II training webinar led by Dr. William Frese, MD, MPH. This webinar provides tools and guidance for primary care providers and their staff around oral health best practices for pediatric patients and their families.

[Register here.](#)



[Adolescent Health Webinar Series](#)

Health equity and racism is at the forefront of adolescent health care. Now is the time to prioritize the understanding of inequity consequences on health. Join us on **March 24 for the Health Equity and the Impact of Race and Racism in Adolescent Care at 12 p.m. CT**. This education is approved for CME and CE credit.

[To register, visit the ICAAP events page.](#)

[Vaccination Discussion](#)

Clinicians: It's your turn. Join a discussion on vaccine misinformation, disinformation, and hesitancy: where we have been and where we go next. Meetings on [March 29th](#) and [30th](#) will include a 30 minute presentation, group discussion, and live notetaking by [Ink Factory](#).

[Register for the 29th](#)

[Register for the 30th](#)

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