The FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted to recommend an updated COVID-19 vaccine composition beginning in fall 2023. This new composition would be a monovalent product, incorporating an XBB-lineage of the Omicron variant. According to Your Local Epidemiologist, Katelyn Jetelina, returning to a monovalent vaccine is expected to be beneficial because the original COVID-19 variant is no longer circulating. Removing this strain from the vaccine composition allows us to focus on the variants that are currently circulating (XBB). Additionally, some studies have found that monovalent vaccines may be more effective than bivalent vaccines. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected to review and make a recommendation regarding these products once they become available in late summer or early fall.

In-person vaccine summits are back! See the flyer on page 6 to find a summit near you and register today.
Summer Travel Measles Guidance

As of June 8, 2023, 16 cases of measles have been confirmed in the US, with the majority linked to international travel. This poses a public health threat, particularly among un- or under-vaccinated communities, as measles is extremely contagious. Measles vaccination recommendations begin at age 12 months, but younger children that will be travelling internationally should consider an early dose. All international travelers should be able to demonstrate proof of immunity, through documentation of vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, or laboratory confirmation of measles. See the CDC’s HAN notice for more information on educating and vaccinating patients that will be travelling internationally this summer.

HPV & Flu Vaccine Toolkits for Providers & Patients Now Available

These toolkits can be used to educate patients about the importance of these vaccines, answer frequently asked questions, and provide resources related to each vaccine.

The toolkits include...
- Information on current recommendations
- Tips for communicating with patients about vaccines
- Patient flyers
- Social media graphics

Upcoming Events

July 18, 2023, 12PM: Social Determinants of Health and Vaccine Equity. Register here.

August 2, 2023, 12PM: Congenital Syphilis: An Update for Pediatricians. Register here.


August 24, 2023, 8AM: Virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Bootcamp. Register here.
**June 2023 ACIP Updates**

**RSV Vaccine (Discussion)**
Maternal/pediatric RSV vaccine options were discussed. A Pfizer vaccine would be administered to mothers towards the end of pregnancy or a monoclonal antibody would be administered directly to the child, both which would provide at least 6 months of protection. However, there may not be a benefit of the maternal vaccine to infants born outside of respiratory virus season and the impact of pre-term birth on vaccine effectiveness must also be considered. ACIP is expected to vote on these products in October.

**Flu Vaccine (Vote)**
Flu vaccine strains will be updated for the 2023-2024 season, while remaining quadrivalent. There will be no new products or updates to authorized ages. However, the committee did vote to adopt language that no special considerations need to be made when vaccinating those with an egg allergy, other than being prepared to respond to allergic reactions. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) maintains its previous years’ recommendation that everyone 6 months of age and older should receive a flu vaccine.

**Pneumococcal 20-Valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV20) (Vote)**
ACIP voted to approve PCV20 for use in children as young as 6 weeks of age. This vaccine can be used as an alternative to PPSV23 for older children with chronic medical conditions or immunocompromise. PCV15 remains available and neither PCV15 or PCV20 is preferred at this time. PCV20 will also be made available through the VFC program. Find more details on the recommended use of PCV20 here.

**Dengue Vaccine (Discussion)**
The committee heard preliminary information about a new dengue vaccine that may not require pre-vaccination screening.

**Meningococcal Vaccine (Discussion)**
ACIP reviewed the potential uses of a new pentavalent meningococcal vaccine that would protect against serotypes A, B, C, W, & Y. It is expected that this would be a two dose vaccine, administered 6 months apart. No votes were made, but the committee will likely continue to discuss this option at future meetings.

**COVID-19 Vaccine (Discussion)**
Reviewed data effectiveness: protection against hospitalization starts to wane after six months, but protection against death and severe disease remains. Despite these benefits, uptake of the bivalent vaccine remains low. For the fall, the FDA has recommended a monovalent vaccine for the currently circulating variant, XBB.1.5. Once this vaccine has been developed and authorized by the FDA, ACIP will review the data and make a recommendation.
Deliveries for VFC, 317, and COVID-19 vaccines will not be available for Illinois providers on September 4, 2023 (Labor Day). Please plan accordingly. Note, this applies specifically to providers working in Illinois outside of Chicago. Chicago providers should refer to guidance from CDPH about delivery holidays.

Routine Immunizations Series – Varicella

It’s been a little over 25 years since the US has established a Varicella vaccine program, becoming the first country to do so.

Varicella was typically known as a very mild disease, very rarely becoming severe or fatal in children. An article in the Journal of Infectious Diseases outlines how development of a varicella vaccine seemed unnecessary at the time. However, in the 1980s, treatments for childhood leukemia started being used which had a high success rate in curing the disease, but left children immunosuppressed and vulnerable to varicella.

In 1995, the vaccine program began as a one dose routine between 12-18 months of age with a catch up dose later in life or two doses for the susceptible over the age of 13. This changed in 2007, becoming a routine two dose plan, with the first dose between 12-15 months of age and the second between 4-6 years.

A report by the CDC showed this program proved to be highly successful, with incidence of disease declining over 97% between 1990 and 2019. In those infected, hospitalizations decreased 90% and mortality up to 89%. Incidence of the herpes zoster virus (shingles virus) also decreased in adults over 30 years of age.

Reframing Immunizations Toolkit

AAP & the FrameWorks Institute recently released a report on how to reframe the conversation about child and adolescent vaccinations. A comprehensive toolkit is available which applies the strategies from the report in resources such as letters to the editor, social media messages, and talking points. Consider using this toolkit as a way to improve vaccination initiatives or support conversations with your patients.

Download the report  View the toolkit
**HHS Commercialization Transition Guide Issued**

July 6, 2023, per the CDC: Guidance from HHS provides direction to those participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program as the USG stops distributing COVID-19 vaccines through its current ordering system and the vaccines transition to traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment. The document also includes information on:

- Exceptional orders after full-scale ordering closes
- Guidance on inventory and disposal management of vaccine & ancillary supplies
- Data reporting requirements
- CDC programs for uninsured individuals
- Anticipated vaccine schedule for fall
- Planning considerations

Additional guidance from CDC will become available in the days ahead.

**Targeted Vaccine Messaging to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Youth**

A 2021 survey conducted in Chicago assessed the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine messaging on parental intention to vaccinate children and adolescents. The most effective messages among a sample of 898 parents were those that highlighted that other trusted parents have vaccinated their kids. Messaging about vaccine safety and testing was somewhat effective, but less likely to be associated with increased vaccination after adjusting for population characteristics. Significant differences in messaging effectiveness between races were not noted. Ultimately, Chicago providers should consider using trusted parent messaging when promoting COVID-19 vaccines with their patients.

**COVID-19 Vaccination and Hospitalization**

A May 2023 study showed that lack of COVID-19 vaccinations was associated with a higher risk of hospitalization compared with those that were vaccinated and boosted. The study out of Alberta, Canada showed that between September 2021 and January 2022, unvaccinated individuals had a 10x higher risk of hospitalization compared to those that are vaccinated and a 21x higher risk compared to those that were also boosted. Additionally, data on hospitalization rates in a total of 6,223 people of varying vaccination status was collected: 3,835 of the hospitalized cases were unvaccinated; compared to 1,907 hospitalizations in the vaccinated population and 481 in the boosted population. Among the unvaccinated, patients between the ages of 60 and 69 were the most at risk. These avoidable hospitalizations had large economic impacts, less so among the vaccinated and boosted populations.
Vaccine Summits

Join the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health, in-person!

Physicians, Physicians Assistants, Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurses, Pharmacists, Medical Assistants, Vaccine Administrators who work outside the city of Chicago, + any additional staff that support IDPH Vaccine for Children (VFC) programs are encouraged to attend.

Summits will be held 8:15am to 3:00pm. Available dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 7th</td>
<td>Northern Illinois University</td>
<td>1425 W. Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb, IL: Dekalb County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 14th</td>
<td>University of Illinois Springfield</td>
<td>1 University Plaza Springfield, IL: Sangamon County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 21st</td>
<td>Elgin Community College</td>
<td>1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin,IL: Kane County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 29th</td>
<td>Parkland College</td>
<td>2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL: Champaign County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3rd</td>
<td>John A Logan College</td>
<td>700 Logan College Dr., Carterville, IL: Williamson County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 11th</td>
<td>Oakton Community College</td>
<td>1600 Golf Rd., Des Plaines, IL: Cook County</td>
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For the agenda and to register, scan here or visit illinoisaap.org/events

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