

IDPH IMMUNIZATIONS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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Congratulations to the 2023 Immunization Champion!

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Immunization Champion Award honors one individual per jurisdiction who is going above and beyond to foster and promote immunization in their communities. Join us in congratulating our Illinois 2023 Immunization Champion!



Susan Latocha, BSN, MS, is the coordinator for community health and wellness at Advocate Health. She has led the American Cancer Society's Hospital Systems Capacity Building Initiative over the past five years to help raise Advocate Health's HPV vaccination rates. She and her team have made strides in HPV vaccination rates by educating 70 providers, over 4,600 Advocate Health teammates, and more than 500 community members by targeting school districts, libraries, and pharmacies. Because of Susan's hard work in relation to HPV vaccines, Advocate Health surpassed their goal and achieved a 65% vaccination rate for girls and 63% rate for boys.

We also want to thank our 2022 winner for serving as the Illinois Immunization Champion this past year!

Douglas Carlson, MD, is a professor and Chair of the Southern Illinois University (SIU) Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Carlson showed commitment and leadership for his pediatric patients as he advocated for programs that helped remove barriers to vaccine access and vaccinated his patients' family members. With his help, the SIU Department of Pediatrics was able to administer 20,251 vaccines in the last 12 months with an average of 1,688 per month. "He recognizes that serving these populations is critical to optimizing the health of our community and in meeting the mission of SIU Medicine."



I-CARE

Immunization (IZ) Gateway

The IZ Gateway allows the exchange of immunization information across IIS jurisdictions and automates sending information to an IIS for patients immunized outside of their jurisdiction. The benefits include:

- provide a more complete and accurate assessment of vaccination coverage through data sharing of appropriate vaccination records.

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- having the capability to obtain a patient's full immunization history.

Example: The patient lives in Illinois but received their COVID-19 vaccination in Michigan. The providers, in both Illinois and Michigan, will be able to see all vaccinations given.

With the IZ Gateway, I-CARE can share data with Michigan, Kentucky, and Veterans Administration facilities. There will continue to be more jurisdictions that will be part of the exchange. Look for Missouri as our next partner. See below for how this is reflected in I-CARE.

When you are in the patient tab in I-CARE you will see this box appear if the patient has immunizations from another state that is part of the IZ Gateway.

Patient Contacts Shots ID Numbers Medical Reports Dups Import (1) Opt-Out

Select an Action: Edit Patient Change Patient Status Reports Return To Search

Immunizations may be available from KY IIS: Search KY IIS

When you select the search tab a pop-up will appear to alert you that a patient record was found. →

Under the shots tab, the reporting site indicates if shots were received in another state. →

[KENTUCKY IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY \(KYIR\)](#)

Found the Information in Other Registry

Patient record found in KY Immunization Registry. ICARE will use this record for all future references.

OK

School Physicals in I-CARE

As of October 27, you will notice that Prevnar 20 shots have been added to the School Physical Report. The Prevnar 20 vaccine provides protection against pneumococcal disease for adults and babies. It helps protect eligible adults against 20 different strains of the bacteria that cause pneumococcal pneumonia and helps protect babies against 20 different strains of the bacteria that cause invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD).

RSV Updates in I-CARE

Forecasting is now available in I-CARE for the RSV vaccines for adults 60 years and older.

Additionally, I-CARE has been updated to allow two doses of nirsevimab to be administered on the same day without being deduplicated in order to allow for the 200 mg dose (2 x 100 mg doses) for the high-risk 8- through 19-month-olds.

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I-CARE DATA QUALITY

Helpful Hints for Staff Entering Data in ICARE

Check-in is an ideal time to welcome the patient and update information in the EHR/EMR and in I-CARE. All details about the patient are important and used to maintain a complete I-CARE immunization record for the patient. The aggregate data are used in support of public health outreach and prevention efforts for vaccine-preventable diseases.

- 1) **Patient Demographic and Vaccination Data** are used to maintain the accuracy, uniqueness, and completeness of a patient's immunization record. When incorrect data are entered, it can result in duplicate records for one patient and multiple incomplete records. Records submitted to I-CARE must contain a number of required fields, which can be found in Illinois' Immunization Registry Code, Section 689.40 [Immunization Registry Code, Section 689.40](#). The entire code can be viewed [here](#).
- 2) **Ensure accurate and valid immunization records** for patients.
 - a) Maintain a comprehensive immunization record in a visible location in each patient's chart.
 - b) EACH TIME a patient comes in, ask if they have been vaccinated since the last visit.
 - c) If yes, request written documentation or confirm in ICARE. Update the patient record at the site.
 - d) Best practice tip: During each patient visit, review the vaccination status. If a recommended vaccine was not administered, document the reason why.
- 3) **Patient Active/Inactive Status.** When a patient leaves the practice (ages out, moves geographically, etc.), mark them as Inactive for your site in ICARE and in the EMR.
- 4) **Manual Data entry into ICARE.** Confirm you are accessing the correct patient's record. **Confirm the demographics for the record in ICARE match what is in the EMR/EMR.** Name, date of birth, MRN, and address, phone number, parent information, and, if appropriate, insurance status.
- 5) **Note that when information is updated in the EMR,** it does not update in ICARE until it is submitted by the site via HL7 or manually entered in the ICARE record.
- 6) **Common data entry errors** and ways to avoid or solve some issues are presented in Table 1. Table 1 includes hints for end users and EMR. For additional information about ICARE HL7 codes and use, see [ICARE HL7 Information](#).

Additional Resources:

- <https://repository.immregistries.org/files/resources/64f9d29448fe6/iip-collaborative-top-5-strategies-improve-immunization-data.pdf>
- <https://www.healthit.gov/playbook/registrar/chapter-2/>
- <https://www.himss.org/sites/hde/files/iip-collaborative-data-validation-training-resources.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/document-vaccines.html>
- <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2045.pdf>

VACCINE UPDATES

Updated Immunization Schedules

2023 Immunization Schedules are now updated and posted online. Both the [Childhood/Adolescent Schedule](#) and the [Adult Schedule](#) have been updated to include the addenda of ACIP recommendations that were made after the 2023 Immunizations were published in February 2023.

Borrowing Not Permitted for Beyfortus

As many providers have read or heard, the CDC's [nirsevimab addendum](#) to the VFC Operations Guide allows jurisdictions like Illinois to establish a bidirectional borrowing policy for this immunization. The addendum also states that "For those VFC providers who **maintain private stock of nirsevimab** and vaccinating privately insured children, bidirectional borrowing of nirsevimab will be allowed for the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season as described below." However, because of the shortage of nirsevimab on the private market, **IDPH has determined that it will not allow bidirectional borrowing of nirsevimab** since most providers will be unable to pay back the doses on the timeline established by the CDC.

New Wild to Mild Campaign Focuses on Taming Worst of Flu Symptoms

CDC launched a new campaign to share information about how a flu vaccine reduces the severity of flu illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick. Flu vaccine effectiveness varies but reduces the risk of flu illness by about half in people who are vaccinated. The new campaign emphasizes the benefit flu vaccine can provide in terms of preventing serious outcomes.



CDC/Influenza Division: 2023-2024 Influenza Season Key Points and Resources

Providers may review the weekly [FluView](#) reports. In addition, CDC has toolkits and [resources](#) for a variety of audiences to help prepare for the fall and winter respiratory virus season. There are toolkits tailored for older adults, pregnant people, parents, people with disabilities, and more. A healthcare provider toolkit, which includes materials on how to talk with patients about flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines is also available. See [RVR toolkit landing page](#) and [HCP toolkit](#).

Updated Influenza Clinical Resources

Immunize.org updated five of its influenza-related clinical resources for healthcare providers. The revised materials are listed below.

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- [Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2023-2024 Influenza Season](#) was reviewed and updated for the 2023–2024 influenza season; however, the manufacturers, products, indications, and codes remain the same as the 2022–2023 season.
- Revisions for [Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Adults](#) and to [Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Children and Teens](#) include an expanded footnote describing clinical considerations for the coadministration of influenza vaccines with other recommended vaccines. They include an explanatory note on **ACIP’s 2023 recommendation that egg allergy of any severity is no longer a consideration when giving influenza vaccines.** People with egg allergy of any severity may receive any appropriate influenza vaccine without any additional safety measures beyond those needed for recipients of any vaccine.
- Similarly, [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Injectable Influenza Vaccination \(IIV\)](#) and to [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Live Attenuated Intranasal Influenza Vaccination](#) reflect ACIP's updated recommendations that people with egg allergy may receive any appropriate influenza vaccine without any additional safety measures. Note the slight name change to remove "Inactivated" and substitute the more inclusive term, "Injectable." As with all Immunize.org’s screening checklists for injectable vaccines, questions related to anxiety and fainting were added to the IIV checklist.

Patient Flu Information

FDA reminded consumers in [It’s a Good Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine](#) that FDA-approved flu vaccines prevent influenza and provide important benefits. Getting vaccinated in the fall can lower your chances of getting the flu. Haven’t had your flu shot yet? It’s not too late. Every flu season is different. Your best defense against the flu is to get a vaccine every year.

Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is helping prepare for the flu season by providing communication resources all in one place on their website. Explore the resources [here](#).

Consumer Information in English and Spanish:

[FDA's Critical Role in Ensuring Supply of Influenza Vaccine \(Spanish\)](#)

[It’s a Good Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine \(Spanish\)](#)

[Protect Your Family From Fraudulent Flu Products \(Spanish\)](#)

[Questions about Vaccines](#)

[Vaccines for Children - A Guide for Parents and Caregivers \(Spanish\)](#)

[Vaccines Protect Children From Harmful Infectious Diseases \(Spanish\)](#)



Fall/Winter Viral Respiratory Season

We have more tools than ever. This is the first fall and winter virus season where vaccines are available for the three viruses responsible for most hospitalizations – COVID-19, RSV, and flu. Co-administration

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of vaccines is an acceptable practice. If vaccines are NOT administered the same day, there is no required interval between vaccines.

Cases of COVID-19 and RSV are rising – and flu season is on the horizon, so talk to your patients today about how to protect themselves and their loved ones from severe respiratory illness.

Resource: [COCA Call: Preparing for the Upcoming Respiratory Virus Season: Recommendations for Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV Vaccines for Older Adults 2023-2024 Fall and Winter Virus Season Playbook](#)

New Updated Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) VIS and IIS Now Available

As of October 19, 2023, an updated Vaccine Information Statement for RSV is available and posted [here](#). This includes vaccines for adults 60 and older; Abrysvo and Arexvy. We encourage providers to begin using VISs immediately, but stocks of previous editions may be used until exhausted.

For babies that receive the RSV shot (nirsevimab (Beyfortus)), the [Immunization Information Statement](#) should be given to parents.

Related Links

- Immunize.org: [Vaccine Information Statements](#) main page for VISs in [47 languages](#)
- Immunize.org: [Dates of Current Vaccine Information Statements](#) (PDF)
- Immunize.org: [Handouts for Patients and Staff](#) main page, where you can sort materials by topic, vaccine, or language
- Immunize.org: [Educational Materials for Patients and Staff](#)—an alphabetical listing of more than 230 ready-to-print staff educational materials and patient handouts
- CDC: [What's New with VISs](#) web page

Confirm That Your Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are Up to Date

[You Must Provide Patients with Vaccine Information Statements \(VISs\) – It's Federal Law!](#) All vaccine providers, public or private, are required by the National Vaccine Childhood Injury Act (NCVIA – [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26](#)) to give the appropriate VIS to the patient (or parent or legal representative) prior to every dose of specific vaccines. The appropriate VIS must be given **prior** to the vaccination and must be



YOU are patients' most trusted source of information on vaccines.

Key Information for Clinicians for Fall/Winter Viral Respiratory Season	
Influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccination of all persons aged ≥6 months who do not have contraindications is recommended.• Changes: Updated U.S. influenza vaccine composition for 2023–2024<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults 65+ should get a high-dose or adjuvated flu vaccine• Persons with egg allergy: Should receive influenza vaccine, no additional safety measures required
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated COVID-19 vaccines recommended for everyone aged ≥6• The vaccines are covered by insurance. Uninsured and underinsured children and adults have access to vaccines through VFC or Bridge Program.• Everyone ages 5 years and older recommended for a single 2023 – 2024 dose• No additional dose for age 65+ recommended at this time
RSV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RSV can cause serious illness in older adults. Certain underlying medical conditions and advanced age are associated with increased risk of severe RSV.• Adults 60+ may receive an RSV vaccine based on shared clinical decision-making with a healthcare provider.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



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given prior to **each dose** of a multi-dose series. It must be given **regardless of the age** of the recipient.

Coming Soon: V-Safe for RSV Vaccination

[V-Safe](#), one of [several systems](#) CDC uses to closely monitor the safety of vaccines, now includes health check-ins initially for adults 60 years and older who receive a [respiratory syncytial virus](#) (RSV) vaccine and soon thereafter for pregnant people who receive a RSV vaccine.



V-Safe, originally developed in 2020 for people to report how they felt after receiving COVID-19 vaccines, will enable participants to report how they feel after getting an RSV vaccine. Additionally, enhanced functionality will allow participants to use a computer, smartphone, or tablet to enroll and complete health check-ins.

After receiving an RSV vaccine, participants can enroll in V-Safe to receive health check-ins via text messages or emails to complete confidential surveys so that they can quickly and easily share with CDC how they feel after getting vaccinated (for example, if they are experiencing injection site pain or a fever). The data collected through V-Safe help CDC monitor potential vaccine side effects and inform the public about what to expect following vaccination.

FDA-Approved Prefilled Diluent Syringe for Merck's MMRV Family

On August 21, 2023, the FDA approved sterile diluent supplied in a prefilled syringe for vaccines in Merck's MMRV Family. These include M-M-R® II (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Virus Vaccine Live), VARIVAX® (Varicella Virus Vaccine Live), and ProQuad® (Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella Virus Vaccine Live). When reconstituting these vaccines using the prefilled diluent syringe, the need to withdraw the sterile diluent from a vial is eliminated. **This update only impacts the sterile diluent, and there is no change to the vials containing lyophilized M-M-R®II, ProQuad, or VARIVAX.**

Starting in October, the diluent for Merck's MMR, MMR -V, and varicella vaccines will begin to be supplied in a prefilled syringe rather than a vial. Publicly funded programs may receive either the vials or syringes of diluent with orders until the transition to prefilled diluent syringes is complete.

Opened Poliovirus Vaccine Inactivated (IPOL) Multidose Vials

IPOL multidose vials can be used until the expiration date printed on the vial unless the vaccine is contaminated or compromised. The [IPOL package insert](#) does not require the use of a beyond use date (BUD). See the [CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit](#) page 20 for more information on Understanding Expiration Dates and Beyond-Use Dates.

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The Joint Commission has specifically addressed the issue of discarding open multi-dose vaccines in [The Joint Commission Standards Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Storage and Expiration Dating

“Vaccines are exempt from the 28-day requirement. The CDC Immunization Program states that vaccines are to be discarded per the manufacturer's expiration date. The Joint Commission applies this approach to all vaccines - whether a part of the CDC or state immunization program or purchased by healthcare facilities - with the expectation that vaccines are managed in accordance with the product manufacturer's instructions for use (correct temperature, frequency of temperature checks, etc.) and any applicable regulatory requirements.”

It is important to recognize that there are some vaccines that do have a beyond-use date/time (BUD). The package inserts or Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers will specify if there is a BUD and how to calculate it. Always review this informational material to determine if a BUD applies. Beyond Use Dates or Times may apply to reconstituted vaccine, multi-dose vial products, vaccines that have been exposed to inappropriate storage conditions, or other reasons.

VFC Eligibility Criteria

Providers must screen, document, and verify VFC eligibility with every immunization visit before administering vaccines. Providers must check the eligibility status in the [MEDl system](#) or an equivalent system receiving the HFS 270/271 electronic transaction data. Please refer to page 30 of the July 2023 VFC Operations Guide <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>. To be eligible to receive VFC vaccine, children (regardless of their state of residency) through the age of 18 (before their 19th birthday) **AND must meet at least one of the following criteria:**

VFC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	DEFINITION
American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)	This population is defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603). (AI/AN children are VFC-eligible under any circumstance.)
Medicaid-eligible	Children who are eligible for the Medicaid program Title XIX (19). For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms “Medicaid-eligible” and “Medicaid-enrolled” are used interchangeably.
Uninsured	Children not covered by a health insurance plan
Underinsured	Underinsured means the child has health insurance, but the insurance policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not include any vaccines; or• Does not include all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines. <p>Underinsured children are only eligible to receive VFC vaccines at a Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health Clinic, or a deputized Local Health Department.</p>
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Occasionally, children may be VFC-eligible for more than one eligibility category. A provider must select and document the VFC eligibility category that will require the **lowest out-of-pocket expenses** to the parent/guardian for the child to receive necessary immunizations. [VFC is an entitlement program](#) and participation in VFC is not mandatory for an eligible child.

FDA Approves PENBRAYA

The first and only vaccine for the prevention of the five most common serogroups causing meningococcal disease in adolescents. **PENBRAYA™ (Meningococcal Groups A, B, C, W, and Y Vaccine) is now approved.** Please see [full prescribing information](#) for PENBRAYA.

PENBRAYA is indicated for active immunization to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y. PENBRAYA is approved for use in individuals 10 through 25 years of age. VFC Resolution for this vaccine was approved. We will notify you when this is available.

COVID-19

[Ensuring Correct Dosing of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine \(2023-2024 Formula\) 6 months-11 years](#)
FDA released [important information](#) to ensure correct administration of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) for individuals 6 months through 11 years.

The announcement advises that providers who administer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) to individuals ages 6 months through 11 years should ensure that the correct volume of the vaccine (0.25 mL) is withdrawn from the vial and administered to the recipient. Providers should discard the vial and excess volume after extracting a single 0.25mL dose. Excess volume should not be used to administer an additional dose. Additionally, never combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient.

FDA shared this information after learning some healthcare providers may not recognize that the single dose vial of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) contains more than 0.25 ml of the vaccine and may be withdrawing the entire contents of the vial to administer to an individual. FDA has not identified any safety risks associated with administration of the higher dose in individuals 6 months through 11 years of age, and no serious adverse events related to this issue have been identified.

For additional information, see the [FDA announcement](#), updated [Moderna fact sheet](#), and the vaccine administration resources listed at the end of this email.

Updated Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination

CDC has updated its guidance for COVID-19 vaccination as follows:

- **Age transitions:** Updated guidance for children who transition during the initial COVID-19 vaccination series from age 4 years to age 5 years and children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and transition from age 11 years to age 12 years to receive the age-appropriate dosage based on their age on the day of vaccination.
- **Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines:** Clarification of circumstances in which administration of COVID-19 vaccine doses from different manufacturers may be considered when doses from the same manufacturer are recommended.

To view all updates, please visit [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#).

Updated Messaging on COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

[Answers to Tough Questions](#), provides guidance on how to share clear, accurate information to answer



questions such as: "How safe are COVID-19 vaccines?" and "What is the risk of having a severe adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine?"

Updated messaging guidance helps address misinformation in the community and underscores the importance of staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Materials

COVID-19 vaccine clinical materials have been updated to reflect guidance for the updated (2023-2024 Formula) mRNA vaccines. You can find the new "one-stop-shop" webpage, that contains **all** COVID-19 vaccine clinical job aids here: [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information | CDC](#). Updates include:

- [Standing orders for Pfizer, ages 6 months through 4 years](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Moderna, ages 6 months through 4 years](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Pfizer, ages 5 years and older](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Moderna, ages 5 years and older](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: Standing Orders for Novavax ages 12 Years of and Older](#)
- [Immunization schedule](#) (updated 9/25/23)

Other clinical materials, including the at-a-glances, shipping and handling labels, transport guidance, and the COVID-19 vaccine module are in progress. Please check back [here](#) for updates.

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To view all updates, please visit [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine VISs

As of October 19, 2023, the updated [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Statements \(VIS\)](#) are now available for the new licensed mRNA vaccine for **ages 12 years and older**. Providers should begin using these VISs immediately. Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis.

COVID-19 immunizations for children **under 12 years of age** continue to be under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). There is no VIS for COVID-19 vaccines authorized under an EUA. Instead, the FDA-issued EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers for each COVID-19 vaccine must be used. This includes 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted for children under 12 years of age and 2023-2024. EUA Fact Sheet documents have been developed for the following current and potential COVID-19 EUA vaccines:

- [COVID-19 Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for individuals 6 months through 11 years of age](#)
- [COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for individuals 6 months through 11 years of age](#)
- [COVID-19 Novavax EUA Recipient-Caregiver Fact Sheet 12 years of age and older](#)

Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Interchangeability

Question: My pediatric practice only stocks Pfizer, but I serve children with a vaccination history of Moderna.

Children ages 6 months–4 years **should receive all doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the same manufacturer**; this includes children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and those who are not. Likewise, people ages 5 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a 3-dose initial vaccination series using vaccines from the same

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manufacturer. [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) can help in finding accessible locations where people can receive vaccine from the same manufacturer.

However, there are some allowable exceptions outlined in CDC's guidance. In the following situations, a different age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine may be administered:

- Same vaccine not available.
- Previous dose unknown.
- Person would otherwise not complete the vaccination series.
- Person starts but unable to complete a vaccination series with the same COVID-19 vaccine due to a contraindication.

A [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](https://www.vaers.hhs.gov/) report is not indicated for these exceptional situations. See CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations page for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html>.

Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States: Interim Clinical Considerations

Summary of recent changes (October 6, 2023):

- The updated 2023–2024 formulation of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine is recommended for people ages 12 years and older as follows:
 - Initial vaccination: 2 doses of updated (2023–2024 Formula) Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine
 - Previously vaccinated with any original monovalent or bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen): 1 dose of updated (2023–2024 Formula) Novavax Vaccine
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may receive 1 or more additional updated (2023–2024 Formula) Novavax vaccine doses.
- People ages 12 years and older have the option of receiving either the updated (2023–2024 Formula) mRNA (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech) or updated (2023–2024 Formula) Novavax vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Reporting in I-CARE

Per [Illinois' Immunization Registry Code](#) providers shall report all COVID-19 immunizations administered in Illinois to the Registry. **This includes both publicly available and privately purchased COVID-19 vaccines.** Please ensure that your COVID-19 vaccines continue to be reported to the I-CARE immunization registry. If you are having issues with HL7 transmission of data, please contact dph.icare@illinois.gov.

Per the same code, section 689.10, the definition of provider is as follows:

"Health care provider" or "Provider" means any person licensed and authorized to administer or order the administration of any immunization in Illinois. Health care provider includes the clinics, facilities, hospitals, and pharmacies where the licensed health care provider works, as well as Illinois licensed long term care facilities.

Bridge Access Program Manual and Resources

Providers that have been enrolled in the Bridge Access Program should review the [Bridge Access Program Manual](#). This is a living document that will be updated as needed. This can be found in I-CARE.

Bridge Access Program Communication Resources

CDC announced recommendations for everyone 6 months and older receive an [updated COVID-19 vaccine](#) to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter. The new vaccine targets the most common circulating variants.

CDC's [Bridge Access Program officially launched](#), providing continued access to COVID-19 vaccines at no cost for the estimated 25-30 million adults who would have otherwise lost access now that these products have transitioned to the commercial market. The [Bridge Access Program](#) will temporarily provide updated COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 costs through December 2024.



To support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for adults through the Bridge Access program, CDC is:

- Launching a communications campaign with digital and other advertisements beginning in October 2023. All [communication resources](#), such as flyers and social media posts, are available in English and Spanish, downloadable and adaptable for dissemination.
- Calling on immunization managers and healthcare providers, as trusted sources of information, to support COVID-19 vaccinations and Bridge Access Program.
- Sharing a [communication toolkit for partners](#) to expand access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccines and promote the Bridge Access Program. The toolkit includes [frequently asked questions](#) and [communication resources](#).

IDPH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

New Providers- Welcome!

In 2023, so far, we have added 36 new Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers. Welcome our 14 newest VFC providers! Thank you for joining IDPH in eliminating barriers and helping to ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccinations on schedule. This translates to healthier children, families, and communities. Interested in being a VFC provider? Send an email to dph.vaccines@illinois.gov

Welcome to our newest VFC Providers	
Advocate Medical Group- Glenbrook South School	Lindenhurst Pediatrics
Ascension Medical Group- Pediatrics Elk Grove	OSF Medical Group - El Paso
Ascension Medical Group- Pediatrics Hoffman Estates	OSF Medical Group - Granville
Douglas County Health Department- Branch 2	Southern Illinois Healthcare - Logan Primary Care
Graham Medical Group- Galesburg	Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation - Collinsville School Based Health Center
Graham Medical Group- Macomb	Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation - Danville School Health Center
Lake-Cook Healthcare Services	Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation - Mobile Unit

Remaining 2023 Holidays

IDPH Holiday Closures and Vaccine Delivery Holidays

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Immunization Section will be closed on the following upcoming holidays in 2023:

Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 23
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25

Vaccine deliveries will not be available on:

Day Before Thanksgiving	Wednesday, November 22
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 23
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24

There will also be a block of dates during December when vaccine deliveries will not be available. Once IDPH has information from CDC, additional information will be provided.

This notification is for providers in Illinois outside of the City of Chicago. Provider offices within the City of Chicago should refer to guidance from the Chicago Department of Public Health. This schedule applies to VFC, 317, and COVID-19 vaccines.

VACCINE EQUITY

2022 National Immunization Survey-Teen Key Findings:

- New data from CDC's [National Immunization Survey-Teen](#) were examined to determine if adolescent vaccination coverage has changed in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the first time since 2013, the proportion of 13–17-year-olds who received their first dose of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine did not increase; instead, vaccination coverage decreased among Medicaid-insured teens while remaining lowest among uninsured teens, two of the four groups eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Overall, vaccination coverage by age 14 decreased for adolescents born in 2008 compared to those born earlier, highlighting the need for catch-up vaccination for some adolescents.
- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, clinicians should review adolescent immunization histories, particularly for teens born in 2008 and for those who are VFC-eligible, to ensure that they are up to date with all recommended vaccinations.

What's the Hubbub?

New on the [Vaccine Resource Hub](#)* (VRH):

1. **How to plan a vaccine event in your community.** This [factsheet](#) equips vaccine providers planning an event with information and tools to address barriers that impact vaccine accessibility and confidence.
2. **Fall Vaccine Time?** This [graphic](#) for social media encourages all adults to stay up to date with their recommended routine vaccinations. These vaccines help prevent influenza, COVID-19, shingles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and pneumococcal diseases. Download and share on your channels!
3. This video explains the **purpose of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**, its role in developing vaccine recommendations, and the process of vaccine recommendation development and approval. A very valuable educational source for your communities. [View and share!](#)
4. **Vaccine Info For your Communities.** This [resource](#) from the Ad Council, CDC, and AMA encourages everyone to get a flu shot to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities, specifically those over age 65. This [factsheet](#) from the University of California San Francisco answers FAQs on the RSV vaccine. Download and share!
5. **Addressing decision points for receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine.** This [factsheet](#) from the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) details ways to support a fully-considered decision about COVID-19 vaccination in African American, Latinx and Native American communities. The factsheet underscores the need to understand and address what's important

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to community members, acknowledge values and lived experience, support the process of decision-making, and identify and address obstacles.

Congrats!

In August, the Vaccine Resource Hub's Partners Spotlight highlighted the works of an Illinois agency in Lake County demonstrating vaccine equity. Thank you for improving access to immunizations!

Meet Gina Guadarrama!

Gina (she/her) is a Supervisor at the Roberti Community House.

Specialty/discipline or population of focus: Community health workers

Region of practice: Waukegan, Illinois

Current project(s) focus: organizing mobile vaccine clinics, partnering with health care providers, promoting vaccines.

What is one thing you and/or your organization have done to improve vaccine coverage that you are proud of?

Bringing the vaccines closer to those who do not have transportation or health insurance



Increasing Equitable Access to Birth Dose Immunizations

[AIM](#) developed this [tip sheet](#) that provides a list of actionable solutions to challenges immunization programs (IPs) and partners may face in increasing equitable access to birth dose immunizations (i.e., vaccine for hepatitis B and nirsevimab).

AIM Reaching for Vaccine Equity Podcasts

Listen to Episode 7 [“Innovative Strategies to Build Vaccine Confidence in a Hispanic/Latino Community”](#) and learn how activating trusted partners led to vaccine success in this vibrant community with strong family connections. Get inspired to build stronger partnerships that empower Hispanic/Latino communities to feel vaccine confident in this REACHing for Vaccine Equity episode.

Listen to episode 8 [“REACHing for Vaccine Equity Holistic Approaches to Improve Health Outcomes”](#). Meet a team in Charlotte, North Carolina, using innovative approaches to change hearts and minds to improve COVID-19 and flu vaccination rates. Hear how their team worked alongside their communities to improve vaccine confidence and lower barriers to healthcare access for communities in Charlotte. Implementing a multidimensional approach, their team focused on meeting the needs of the diverse community, including Black, Latino, Asian American, White, LGBTQ, and transient (homeless) populations. Listen to previous podcasts in the series [here](#).

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Culturally Driven Public Health Communications Resource

The [Public Health Communications Collaborative's](#) latest resource, [*Strategies for Developing Culturally Driven Public Health Communications*](#), builds on insights from [last month's webinar](#). The resource outlines practical guidance on recognizing and incorporating multicultural audiences' diversity to communicate effectively, build stronger relationships, increase credibility, and improve health outcomes.

Vaccine Confidence

Connecting the Dots

The Vaccine Confidence Connecting the Dots guide offers vaccine confidence resources for various target populations. This resource is updated regularly to provide members and staff with the tools and information necessary to promote vaccine confidence across the nation and its territories.

View the updated resource [here](#).

- Public Health Communications Collaborative
 - [Messaging: Recommendations to Encourage Routine Childhood Vaccinations](#)
 - [Tough Q+A: Pandemic Fatigue](#)
 - [Communications Tool: Plain Language for Public Health](#)

Resources on vaccination-related fainting and anxiety

If you administer vaccinations, you can improve a recipient's confidence in vaccines by acknowledging and addressing their anxiety. Anxiety about injections is common at all ages and contributes to vaccine hesitancy in those affected. Both the vaccinators and the vaccine recipient can take simple and effective steps to improve the recipient's vaccination experience.

Immunize.org provides clinical tools for healthcare personnel that may be used for quality improvement efforts ideal for short trainings and huddles. Patient handouts included on vaccination-related fainting and anxiety.

- [Vaccination-Related Syncope: Information for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- [Fainting Related to Vaccination: What You Need to Know](#) (for patients and parents)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety in Adolescents and Adults: Strategies for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety in Adolescents and Adults: Strategies for Vaccine Recipients and Caregivers](#)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety for Children: Strategies for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety for Children: Strategies for Vaccine Recipients and Caregivers](#)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety for Infants and Toddlers: Strategies for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety for Infants and Toddlers: Strategies for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- Video - [Addressing Vaccination Anxiety: Strategies for Healthcare Professionals](#)

Screening checklists for vaccine contraindications now address vaccination-related fainting and anxiety.

Vaccination anxiety and a history of syncope or presyncope related to injection are **not** contraindications or precautions to vaccination. However, both anxiety and fainting can adversely affect the vaccine recipient's experience and increase vaccine hesitancy. You can take simple steps to prevent harmful syncope-related falls or to reassure patients if you are aware of these issues when assessing the recipient for vaccination. By addressing these issues consistently, you can help increase your patients' confidence in vaccination.

You will now see two new screening questions on Immunize.org's screening checklists for vaccine contraindications:

- Have you [your child] ever felt dizzy or faint before, during, or after a shot?
- Are you [your child] anxious about getting a shot today?

Update your screening checklists today:

- [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to HPV, MenACWY, MenB, and Tdap Vaccines for Teens](#)
- [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Injectable Influenza Vaccination](#)
- [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Vaccines for Adults](#)
- [Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

Related Links

- [Screening Checklists about Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions](#) main page (showing language options)
- [Handouts for Patients and Staff](#)

WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

- IL Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics offers multiple webinars.
 - **Webinar Series: COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization** were recorded and [posted](#) for those who were unable to attend the live webinars.
 - **Webinar series: Preparing for Respiratory Virus Season: Flu, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)** - Here are the links to the [recording](#) and [slides](#).
 - **RSV Vaccines for Older Populations** – Here are the links to the [recording](#) and [slides](#).
 - **Vaccine Coverage Levels – Building Herd Immunity & Eliminating Vaccine Preventable Diseases** November 21, 2023 at 12-1 PM [Register here](#).
 - **A Review of 2023 Vaccine Updates & What to Expect in 2024** - December 19, 2023 12PM—1PM [Register here](#).

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- Pfizer’s Vaccines US Medical Affairs team is providing brief educational webinars entitled ***Pfizer RSV Vaccine - A New Maternal Indication***. Recorded session topics include 1) RSV burden of disease in infants, 2) Mechanism of Maternal Immunization, 3) ACIP Recommendations and Clinical Considerations, 4) Clinical Trial Data: Safety and Efficacy, and 5) Question and answer session. Click here for recordings and resources [RSV Vaccine Educational Webinars led by Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs](#).
- NCIRD webinar “**Clinical Guidance for Use of Products to Prevent RSV Disease in Infants**”. The presentation will review the ACIP-recommended use of nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody for the prevention of RSV in infants, as well as any recommendations made by. View archived *CIIW* videos [here](#).
- ***The Evolving Pandemic Shift- A Look at the Novavax non-mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Option: A Live National Broadcast***. Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 12:30-1:15 PM (ET). [Click here to register](#).
- The Immunization Services Division (ISD) in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) hosted **2023 Respiratory Virus Season and RSV, COVID-19, and Influenza**. [Link](#) to recorded webinar.
- “**MenACWY Given at Age 10. Revaccinate at 11, or Not?**”: watch the 1-minute answer, part of the Immunize.org *Ask the Experts Video Series* on [YouTube](#).
- The [Public Health Communications Collaborative](#) provides free webinars with practical guidance on recognizing and incorporating multicultural audiences' diversity to communicate effectively, build stronger relationships, increase credibility, and improve health outcomes. To access the latest resource, [Strategies for Developing Culturally Driven Public Health Communications](#), and recorded [webinars](#).
- [Listen UP!](#) Audible Insights for Today’s Communicators is a podcast series brought to you by CDC’s Division of Communication Science and Services. This podcast for public health communicators focuses on current topics with insights from academics, innovators, practitioners, and others.
- **MMWR Weekly Briefing Podcast** The latest [MMWR Weekly Briefing](#) is live. Topics include – flu severity among children and teens during the 2022-23 season, recommendations for the use of the RSV vaccine in pregnant people, and more Listen and subscribe on: [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Google Play](#).

PUBLICATIONS

- [“Maternal Pertussis Vaccination, Infant Immunization, and Risk of Pertussis”](#) published in *Pediatrics* on October 9.
- Michelle Fiscus, MD, AIM Chief Medical Officer, co-authored the NASHP article- [Advancing Immunization Partnerships through the Vaccine Access Collaborative: Key Takeaways and Lessons Learned](#), October 20, 2023

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR)

- [Use of the Pfizer Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine During Pregnancy for the Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus–Associated Lower Respiratory Tract Disease in Infants: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)
- [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2023-24 Influenza Season.](#)
- [Interim Effectiveness Estimates of 2023 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccines in Preventing Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations — REVELAC-i Network, March–July 2023](#)
- [Pneumococcal Vaccine for Adults Aged ≥19 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2023](#)
- [Reduced Odds of Mpox-Associated Hospitalization Among Persons Who Received JYNNEOS Vaccine — California, May 2022–May 2023](#)
- [Health Care Provider Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Adult Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Recommendations — United States, September 28–October 10, 2022.](#)
- [Use of Nirsevimab for the Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Disease Among Infants and Young Children: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — National Immunization Survey–Teen, United States, 2022](#)
- [Wastewater Surveillance Data as a Complement to Emergency Department Visit Data for Tracking Incidence of Influenza A and Respiratory Syncytial Virus — Wisconsin, August 2022–March 2023](#)
- [Effectiveness of Maternal mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations in Infants Aged 6 Months During SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Predominance — 20 States, March 9, 2022–May 31, 2023](#)
- [Influenza, Tdap, and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Hesitancy Among Pregnant Women — United States, April 2023](#)
- [Inequities in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Persons, by Disaggregated Race and Ethnicity — Massachusetts, May 2021–October 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations and Practices for Women of Reproductive Age by Health Care Providers — Fall DocStyles Survey, United States, 2022](#)
- [Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status Among Long-Term Care Facility Residents — United States, October 31, 2022–May 7, 2023](#)

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- [Preventable Deaths During Widespread Community Hepatitis A Outbreaks — United States, 2016–2022 Weekly / October 20, 2023 / 72\(42\);1128–1133.](#)
- [Use of Updated COVID-19 Vaccines 2023–2024 Formula for Persons Aged ≥6 Months: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, September 2023](#)
- [Use of the Pfizer Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine During Pregnancy for the Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus–Associated Lower Respiratory Tract Disease in Infants: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)
- [Routine Vaccination Coverage — Worldwide, 2022, Weekly / October 27, 2023 / 72\(43\);1155–1161](#)

RESOURCES

- Immunize.org posted 12 translations of the [multi-vaccine Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#) titled [Your Child’s First Vaccines VIS](#), which CDC updated on July 24, 2023. These translations join the [Spanish \(RTF\)](#) VIS. This VIS provides information on diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hib, hepatitis B, pneumococcal, and poliovirus vaccines, including 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) as an option for vaccination.
- [Vaccinate Your Family launches its 2023–24 “Not ‘Just’ the Flu” campaign to raise awareness about the seriousness of influenza](#)
- [Voices for Vaccines releases video “What is Community Immunity?” to share with patients and the public](#)
- Organizing a new vaccination program? Use Immunize.org’s [Vaccinating Adults: A Step-by-Step Guide](#)—free to download by chapter or in its entirety.
- Immunize.org's [Clinic Tools: Administering Vaccines](#) main page, you will find educational materials such as:
 - [Administering Vaccines: Dose, Route, Site, and Needle Size](#)
 - [Don’t Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Administration!](#)
 - [How to Administer Intramuscular and Subcutaneous Vaccine Injections](#)
 - [Skills Checklist for Vaccine Administration](#)

To find it, select the "Clinic Tools" tab in the middle of the blue banner atop every Immunize.org web page and then select "Administering Vaccines."

Cc: Common Data Entry Errors and Strategies to Avoid Them