New Enrollment Process
IDPH launched a new site for the I-CARE (Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange) enrollment request process. This new site aims to simplify and enhance the efficiency of I-CARE enrollment. It streamlines processes and allows for quicker turnaround times with the addition of automation and digital workflows, as mentioned in the SIREN. The website went live on December 8, 2023 and paper-based enrollment is no longer accepted.

Quick Assist
On December 18, 2023 IDPH announced Quick Assist in I-CARE. Quick Assist streamlines the submission of requests to I-CARE and publicly funded vaccine programs, offering a user-friendly interface for seamless navigation. It enhances user experience, improves record-keeping, and contributes to better data accuracy by simplifying the request management process in one system. Here is a SIREN with a step-by-step guide on how to access the Quick Assist in I-CARE.

Immunization Gateway
The Immunization (IZ) Gateway facilitates the exchange of immunization information between jurisdictions, enabling a comprehensive vaccination coverage assessment and access to a patient's complete immunization history. For example, if a patient receives a COVID-19 vaccination in Michigan but resides in Illinois, both Illinois and Michigan providers can access all vaccination records through I-CARE's data sharing capabilities. Missouri is Illinois' newest state that is sharing immunization data with I-CARE. You can select Search MO IIS after you have selected your patient. Here is an example of what you will see in I-CARE.
If there are shot records found, this box will appear.

The Missouri shots will show in the patient's shots tab.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Orders for VFC Programs**

IDPH sent out a SIREN on December 18, 2023 detailing the changes for how to order COVID-19 vaccines for VFC programs in I-CARE. With an increase in stock at distribution centers, providers can now order vaccines the same way as all other vaccines are ordered, rather than as a limited quantity order.

**Reminder:** All VFC providers are required to stock and recommend COVID-19 vaccines.

For more information on all the I-CARE updates refer to the [IDPH December Immunizations Newsletter](http://illinoisaap.org). If you are not receiving SIREN updates from IDPH, refer to the instructions here on how to register.
FluMist Replacement Program

The FluMist Quadrivalent Replacement Program for publicly funded vaccine programs allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist Quadrivalent doses at no cost, ensuring maximum product usage. It is implemented by McKesson Specialty Health (MSH) under a contract with AstraZeneca, independent of the CDC’s distribution contract.

Eligibility criteria include:
- Doses must have been bought via the CDC contract (private purchases are not eligible)
- The product must expire on or before February 2, 2024
- AstraZeneca will provide replacements while supplies last

Providers should follow all required steps for requesting replacements. Requests can be made starting at 7am CST on Monday, December 4, 2023, through Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 7pm CST.

Nirsevimab

Additional 50 mg and 100 mg doses of nirsevimab are now available in the U.S.. With this, the CDC is recommending health care providers to return to the original CDC and ACIP recommendations. A note: Please do not order doses to reserve them for infants born later in the season when RSV circulation/risk may be lower.

Abrysvo

On December 21, 2023, IDPH released a statement allowing limited ordering of RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) for pregnant persons through the Illinois VFC program. Abrysvo is recommended for pregnant individuals during 32-36 weeks of gestation, primarily in the September-January season. Abrysvo is also available to order through the Chicago VFC program. Abrysvo available through VFC programs is for eligible patients under 19 years of age. VFC vaccine should not be administered to patients over 18 years old.

Administration Errors - RSV Vaccines

The CDC has reported that infants are mistakenly receiving RSV vaccines intended for adults. Infants should only receive nirsevimab or paluvizimab (Synagis) as indicated by the clinical guidance. These are the only two products approved for use in this population. Administration errors should be reported to VAERS.
News and Updates

Building Global Vaccine Confidence Through Diplomacy

In the latest episode of 'Infectious Ideas,' Dr. Peter J. Hotez, PhD, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, talks about vaccine science and diplomacy. Dr. Hotez reflects on the evolution of the field, shares personal insights from his journey, and discusses strategies to combat anti-science sentiments and foster vaccine confidence.

New Comirnaty (Pfizer) Refrigerator Stable Vaccine

Current Pfizer 12y+ vaccine allocations are being replaced with Pfizer's refrigerated 12y+ vaccine (NDC 00069-2377-10), a new presentation in a carton of 10 manufacturer-filled syringes (MFS).

These vaccines will come in a glass prefilled syringe and must be stored between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F). Do NOT store at ultra-cold or standard freezer temperatures.

You can use the current Pfizer 12y+ vaccine you have on hand until it is consumed, expired, or has been stored at 2–8 °C for longer than the allowable 10 weeks. Review all storage and handling requirements on the I-VAC website.

AAP Vaccine Resources

Reminder and Recall Strategies

Communicating With Families About How to Protect Against Respiratory Viruses

Healthcare Provider Toolkit: Preparing Your Patients for the Fall and Winter Virus Season
All children deserve access to prompt, high-quality healthcare. As such, both the Chicago Department of Public Health and the state of Illinois are committed to working to ensure migrant children and their families are safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. Your partnership on this is vital and appreciated, as we know many of you are contributing to these efforts. Some recent trends that are being seen in the city and among newly arrived populations, according to CDPH:

**Varicella:** High levels of varicella (chickenpox) have been detected in Chicago, particularly among newly arrived individuals living in congregate settings. Please review and consider the [CDC’s recommendations for varicella vaccination during an outbreak](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/other/varicella-outbreak.html):

- Children ages 1 - 4 years who are part of Chicago's new arrival population should receive a second “early” varicella vaccine dose, provided a minimum interval of 3 months has elapsed after the first dose.
- For children ages 4 - 12 years who have no history of varicella immunity, the minimum interval between doses is also 3 months.
- For those 13 years and older with no history of varicella immunity, the minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.

Both clinically and laboratory-diagnosed cases of varicella should be reported to CDPH within 24 hours. Reporting through I-NEDSS (Illinois Notifiable Electronic Disease Surveillance System) is preferred. Otherwise, please use the [Online Case Reporting Form](https://illinois.ezbid.com:8443/epiweb/ui) or call 312-743-9000. Reminder: Use airborne precautions for patients with chicken pox and measles or when seeing patients with illnesses like chicken pox and measles.

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**New Arrivals Situational Awareness Dashboard**

According to the City of Chicago’s website, since August 31, 2022, the City of Chicago has welcomed over 30,000 new arrivals from the southern border. The dashboard here reflects current and historical data regarding the City’s new arrivals response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Arrivals Daily Snapshot</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Seeking Asylum Arriving via Texas Buses*</td>
<td>30,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Seeking Asylum Arriving via Airplane Since June 2023</td>
<td>4,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bus Arrivals Since 8/31/2022</td>
<td>636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Resettled **</td>
<td>11,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Reunited with Sponsors **</td>
<td>3,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Shelter Census</td>
<td>14,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Asylum Placement ~</td>
<td>592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Waiting in Police Station</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Waiting at O'Hare</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Waiting at Midway</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Waiting at Lancing Zone ~</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AS OF JANUARY 10, 2024, AT 5PM. ** REPORTED WEEKLY
~ THIS NUMBER IS FLUID AND CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE DAY. * DOES NOT INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING INDEPENDENTLY OR GREYHOUND.

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**Resources:**

- CDC’s page on [immigrant and refugee health](https://www.cdc.gov/refugeehealth/index.html)
- Recent HANs on [varicella](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6231a1.htm) and [provider information on new arrivals](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/health-topics/new-arrivals/index.html)
Announcements

Call for Presentations

Present at IDPH's Emerging Stronger: Illinois Infectious Diseases Conference, scheduled to take place at Illinois State University on April 23-24, 2024. Submitting your proposal is a straightforward process. Please complete your submission here by February 1, 2024. If you have any questions or need assistance, email DPH.Imm.EmergingStronger@Illinois.gov.

Urgent Need to Increase COVID-19, Flu, and RSV Immunizations

The CDC and local health officials have called for an increase in COVID-19, flu, and RSV immunization coverage as respiratory viruses continue to spread. Rising cases combined with low vaccination rates have led to increases in hospitalizations, more emergency department traffic, and a greater strain on healthcare systems in the US and in Illinois. As of 12/23/23, Illinois' respiratory virus surveillance report shows COVID-19 test positivity rates of 14.9%, with 5.1% of hospital admissions being attributed to COVID-19.

Please continue to give strong vaccine recommendations, use motivational interviewing, and spend time counseling on the importance of these vaccines. Find additional information from health alerts recently released by both IDPH and CDPH.

Upcoming Webinar: February 21, 2024 at 12:00 PM
Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation

Scan to register