



## Immunization Newsletter

### March 2024

### ACIP Vaccine Schedule Updates

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met February 28 and 29, 2024 to review vaccine data and vote on new resolutions to the child and adult vaccine schedules. A link to the slides from the meeting is available [here](#) and here are some highlights:

- COVID-19: Persons  $\geq 65$  years of age should receive an additional dose of 2023-2024 Formula COVID-19 vaccine.
- Chikungunya: Chikungunya vaccine recommended for persons aged  $\geq 18$  years traveling to a country or territory where there is a chikungunya outbreak and for laboratory workers with potential for exposure to chikungunya virus
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis: Td vaccine will be available through the VFC program for use in children  $< 7$  years of age for whom receipt of the pertussis component is contraindicated. Language regarding the tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster will also be updated to align with ACIP [recommendations](#).

Flu vaccine effectiveness was reviewed. Flu vaccines have been about 59%-67% effective at preventing hospitalization against any influenza in patients ages 6 months to 17 years of age during the 2023-'24 flu season. Changes to the meningococcal vaccine schedule are expected to be discussed at the next ACIP meeting, as [several options for schedule changes](#) were presented during the February meeting. The next ACIP meeting is scheduled for the end of June 2024.



# Measles is in Illinois

## Updates on Measles

As of March 11, 2024, at least **five cases of measles have been identified in Chicago**. Two of the cases of measles were identified in young children residing at a new arrivals shelter in Pilsen. The first child who was identified has recovered and is no longer infectious. The other child is in the hospital in stable condition. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) sent a notification to all parents that this child was enrolled in and attending a CPS school. 2 additional cases were also identified among adults at the shelter - both who are in stable condition.

The other person with measles is a Chicago resident and is unrelated to the cases at the new arrivals shelter. This person is recovering at home and their infectious period ended on March 6, 2024. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other agencies are actively investigating and responding.

The Indiana resident with measles who came to Chicago in February has not resulted in any secondary measles cases at this time. Even so, we are off to a rough start to 2024, considering that Illinois had five measles cases in all of 2023 and those five cases were the first in the state since 2019.

We are in touch with CDPH and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) leadership to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to share with you. We should expect to see more cases. Please:

- Continue to reach out to patients who are not up-to-date with their measles vaccines to get them vaccinated.
- Be ready to take infection control measures within your clinics.
- Proactively communicate about measles with your patients and their families, including those who have children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

We will continue to post real-time updates and resources to this webpage: [Measles Updates](#). Other helpful links:

- [CDPH Measles Isolation & Testing Recommendations](#)
- [Have You Ever Diagnosed Measles?](#) - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- [Measles one-pager from Project Firstline \(AAP\)](#)
- Watch for measles cases, urge families to get children vaccinated, [AAP News Article](#)



## COVID-19 Vaccines Clinical Guidance

Recent changes to the CDC's [interim clinical considerations](#) include:

- Clearer guidance on post-vaccination reactions for mRNA and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines.
- Updated information on pre-vaccination counseling and safety considerations.
- 2023-2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccines — (Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer-BioNTech) being added to the [V-safe safety monitoring system](#) to help with reporting of vaccine adverse events.
- An additional dose of the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine for those ages 65 years and older.
- New information/guidelines for reporting adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) following administration of a COVID-19 vaccine. See [this link](#) for the CDC summary outlined below:
  - For licensed COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) for those 12 years and older: healthcare providers are **strongly encouraged** to make a VAERS report for any adverse events after vaccination and for any administration errors.
  - For COVID-19 vaccines still under EUA, providers are **required** to make a report for:
    1. Vaccine administration errors.
    2. Serious adverse events such as death, hospitalization, or life-threatening events.
    3. Cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS) in children and adults.
    4. Cases of myocarditis or pericarditis. A VAERS FAQ can be found [here](#).

## COVID-19 Isolation Guidance

The CDC updated its [COVID-19 isolation guidance](#). These recommendations now apply to and are grouped with other respiratory viruses (flu and RSV). They state:

- People should stay home when sick with respiratory virus symptoms.
- People can return to normal activities if for at least 24 hours, they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** symptoms are improving.
- Once people have returned to activities, there is then a 5-day cautionary period where people should mask, improve ventilation and indoor air quality, limit contact with others (especially people who are high risk), and use testing if available.

These recommendations do not apply to healthcare settings as they are intended for a general audience and community settings. CDC offers separate, “specific guidance for healthcare settings ([COVID-19](#), [flu](#), and [general infection prevention and control](#)) and [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#) that is not currently changing”. Dr. Katelyn Jetelina’s newsletter covers more information about these changes and her thoughts, read it [here](#).

## Countering Vaccine Hesitancy - A New AAP Report

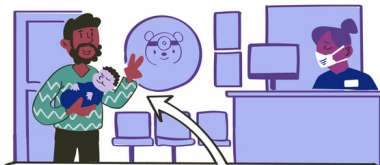
The [AAP lists strategies](#) to help combat vaccine hesitancy in their latest report. Vaccine hesitancy is the main challenge in vaccine communications and can be influenced by many factors including variable trust in the healthcare system and disparities in vaccine access. To improve effective communication, pediatricians can:

- Give a strong vaccine recommendation
- Use presumptive language to begin the conversation
- Apply motivational interviewing techniques for those that express hesitancy
- Communicate support for the vaccine schedule.

The [report](#) also outlines ethical considerations providers can review and information to support effective communication including vaccine monitoring systems, facts and messages to debunk common myths, proven communication methods, and more.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO  
**STAY UP TO DATE**  
ON ALL VACCINES

VACCINES WORK BASED ON HOW A CHILD'S  
IMMUNE SYSTEM WORKS AT DIFFERENT AGES



CHILDREN CAN GET  
**MORE THAN ONE VACCINE**  
AT THE SAME TIME! THIS IS A GREAT IDEA!

## Td Vaccine Shortages Expected

MassBiologics has [discontinued production of TdVax®](#). Therefore, Sanofi (the manufacturer of the sole remaining Td vaccine, Tenivac®) is anticipating that the supply of Td vaccine in the U.S. market will be constrained during 2024. The limited supply of Td vaccine needs to be preserved for those with a contraindication to receiving pertussis-containing vaccines. The CDC is recommending providers to transition to use of Tdap vaccine in lieu of Td vaccine whenever possible while Td vaccine supplies are constrained. Tdap vaccine isn't an acceptable alternative to Td only when a person has a specific contraindication to pertussis-containing vaccines, which is very rare.

## Nirsevimab Administration

An [early estimate](#) of nirsevimab effectiveness suggests that the monoclonal antibody was 90% effective against RSV-associated hospitalization in infants in their first RSV season. Nirsevimab administration should continue through March 31, 2024.

## Vaccine Storage and Handling

Review Vaccine Temperature Monitoring and Storage Equipment guidance through a [new video series](#) from the Public Health Foundation and CDC.



# Important News

## Birth Month and Influenza Vaccination

A recent [study](#) of 800,000 children aged 2 - 5 featured in the BMJ Research Journal has established a correlation between the birth month of young children and the timing of their influenza vaccinations. The findings suggest that children born in October are more likely to receive their influenza vaccinations in the same month, correlating with a reduced likelihood of influenza diagnosis. Additionally, vaccinations administered in November and December are associated with the lowest incidence of influenza diagnoses among the subjects. This pattern suggests that the timing of vaccination, often aligned with preventive care visits and birth months, may influence influenza risk. However, the study also acknowledges the potential influence of unmeasured factors that could affect both vaccination timing and influenza susceptibility.

## HPV Vaccine Coverage

A [recent report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveals that 38.6% of children in the United States, aged between 9 to 17 years, had received at least one dose of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine by the year 2022. The analysis demonstrates a progressive increase in vaccine uptake with age: starting from 7.3% among 9 to 10-year-olds, escalating to 30.9% within the 11 to 12-year age group, further rising to 48.8% among 13 to 14-year-olds, and peaking at 56.9% in the 15 to 17-year age bracket. Additionally, the report highlights disparities in vaccination rates based on health insurance status, with children covered by private health insurance (41.5%) showing the highest rates of vaccination. In comparison, those with Medicaid presented a 37% vaccination rate, followed by children under other forms of government coverage (30.2%), and the lowest rates were observed among uninsured children (20.7%). HPV vaccination is cancer prevention - make sure to start the conversation with your patients and their guardians early so they have plenty of time to make the decision to vaccinate!

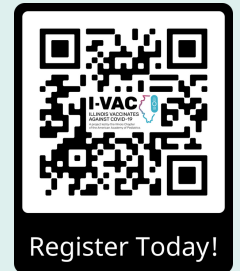


Join the American Cancer Society's [HPV Roundtable](#) for a 4-part webinar series on HPV Vaccination Best Practices. The next session will take place on May 8, 2024 at 2PM EST. The webinar will be led by experts in HPV vaccination, to gain insights into effective vaccine recommendations and counseling hesitant parents. To learn more about this session and the rest of the sessions, refer to the [registration page](#).

# Quick Announcements and Upcoming Events

## I-VAC Quality Improvement Project

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) is recruiting primary health care providers to join a 7-month learning collaborative and quality improvement project. The goal of this project is to build the capacity of primary care providers to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through improving communication with patients and families about vaccines, optimizing practice office systems, and understanding reasons for missed vaccinations opportunities during office visits. Participants will be able to improve knowledge of best practices, network and problem solve with others, and earn American Board of Pediatrics Part 4 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit as well as continuing medical education credits.



## Adolescent Immunization Action Week

Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW) is April 1 - 5, 2024. This is a week dedicated to ensuring adolescents are up to date on their immunizations. Keeping up with the recommended pediatric vaccine schedule will help keep teens protected before they encounter serious and life-threatening diseases. Visit the [AIAW website](#) for downloadable social media posts providers can use to help spread awareness. You can also find additional information and resources from the [CDC](#) and ICAAP's [immunizations page](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Webinar:

- March 19, 2024 - 12PM Preparing for Adolescent Immunization Action Week

### In-Person VFC Training (for Chicago providers only):

- April 1, 2024 (Malcolm X College)
- April 19, 2024 (Northeastern Illinois University)
- May 6, 2024 (Malcolm X College)

Visit [illinoisaap.com/events](https://illinoisaap.com/events)  
or scan the QR code to register

### Save the Date - In-Person VFC Summits (for providers outside of Chicago):

- May 22, 2024 (Northern Illinois University)
- June 27, 2024 (Southern Illinois University)
- July 25, 2024 (Bradley University)
- September 4, 2024 (Trinity International University)
- September 12, 2024 (University of Illinois)
- October 10, 2024 (Oakton College)

**Registration will open soon**

