



Immunization Newsletter

October 2024

2024/2025 Respiratory Reporting and Testing Guidance

Updated guidance related to the submission of respiratory clinical laboratory specimens and reporting was issued on 9/25/24. Routine testing, including PCR testing, for inpatient and clinic care should be obtained in clinic and hospital labs. Only specimens that were approved by a local health department or influenza specimens that cannot be subtyped should be sent to IDPH.

To get approval for sending a specimen to IDPH, health department staff should complete the **IDPH Communicable Disease Test Authorization Form**. Clinics should report the following to LHDs:

- Suspected novel influenza, within 3 hours
- Pediatric respiratory associated deaths due to COVID-19, flu, or RSV, within 3 days
- ICU hospitalizations with COVID-19, flu, or RSV, within 3 days
- Outbreaks of respiratory illness in **congregate settings**

If you have questions about specimen submission, collection, or transportation, call the appropriate regional laboratory. Contact information is provided in the updated guidance announcement.





Drop in Vaccinations Could Cause Resurgence of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

CDC data shows that children born in 2020 and 2021 have lower vaccine coverage than those born in 2018 and 2019. Coverage rates fall anywhere between 46% for 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine and 92% for 3 doses of poliovirus vaccine. This data is published after 262 cases of measles have been reported in the U.S. this year, the highest since 2019, according to the **CDC**. About 42% of measles cases this year have been in children under 5 years, and 88% of all patients were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status.

Vaccine coverage among kindergartners has also been decreasing since the pandemic, as evidenced by vaccine rates for the **2023 - 2024 school year**. Exemptions for one or more vaccines among kindergartners also increased to 3.3% from 3.0% the year before. A variety of resources to help you communicate about required vaccinations are available on our **School Immunization Resources webpage**.

Mpox Health Alert

The CDC has determined that ongoing human-to-human transmission of clade I MPXV in Central and East Africa is an **outbreak**. The World Health Organization (WHO) also declared the outbreak a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern**. No cases of clade I mpox have been reported in the U.S. at this time, but please be **on the look out** for the signs and symptoms of mpox in children and adolescents traveling from the Democratic Republic of the Congo or a country where mpox is occurring in the last 21 days, or those who have had contact with persons who have recently been in a country where transmission is occurring.

Vaccine Completion and Timeliness Among Children in the Military Health System

A recent **study** of children born at military hospitals from 2010 through 2019 found that 74.4% completed the combined 7-vaccine series, and among those, 36.2% had delays. Completion of the series peaked at 78.7% among children born in 2016 and 2017. Risk for noncompletion was higher among children born to younger pregnant parents and those having to change their well-child care location.



Flu Vaccines

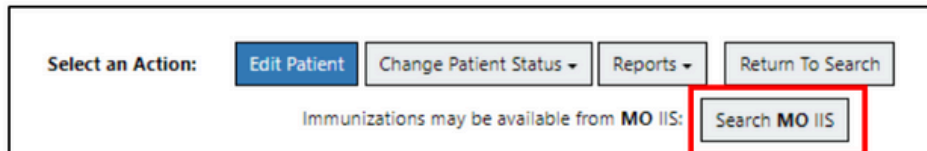
Updated codes are available [for administration of flu vaccines](#) and on the [HFS Practitioner fee schedule](#). Note that the ICD-10-CM and NDC codes remain the same as previous years.

The [FDA approved](#) AstraZeneca's FluMist flu vaccine for self or caregiver administration for people between 2 and 49 years old. It is expected to be available next fall. A prescription will be required, but this approval is anticipated to [increase access](#) and contribute to improved flu vaccine rates.



I-CARE: Immunizations Gateway

The Immunizations (IZ) Gateway is a tool in I-CARE that allows for the exchange of immunization information across immunization information system (IIS) jurisdictions and automates sending information to an IIS for patients immunized outside of their jurisdiction. With the IZ Gateway, I-CARE can share data with other states. I-CARE is currently exchanging with Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Newest additions to the IZ Gateway are the City of Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Refugee Immunization Information Exchange, Rhode Island, and Utah. Here is an example of what you will see in I-CARE:



Over One-Third of Adults Not Planning on Receiving Recommended Vaccines this Fall

A [survey](#) conducted by Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center found that over one-third of adults do not plan on getting the recommended vaccinations for this fall season. Those surveyed seem to be even more hesitant towards the COVID-19 vaccine, with 56% of people planning on getting the flu shot, and only 43% planning on getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Adults over the age of 65 were most likely to report interest in getting the flu shot, but are not as likely to get the pneumococcal or RSV vaccines. Additionally, 23% of people reported confusion about the current recommendations.

Whooping Cough Cases Increasing

The U.S. is experiencing a **rise** in pertussis, or whooping cough, with four times as many cases as this time last year. These numbers are the highest they have been since 2014. As of **9/26/24**, there have been 1,087 confirmed and probable cases of pertussis reported in Illinois in 2024.

Please monitor patients and notify your local health department if you become aware of a suspected or confirmed case of pertussis. Confirmed cases should be reported within 24 hours of diagnosis. Review patient immunization records at every visit and consider administering a DTaP vaccine or Tdap booster if necessary.

The CDC has a number of **communication and print resources** that can assist in patient conversations about pertussis and vaccination.



School Immunization Resources

With the school year in full swing and the October 15 deadline for school health screening and immunizations in mind, we created a variety of resources to help communicate about and promote these requirements. These resources can be found on our **School Immunization Resources webpage**.



2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine storage/handling and dosing charts from ICAAP are available [here](#).

Upcoming Events and More

Upcoming Events

- Immunizations Webinar - Pertussis: November 12 at 12PM
- ICAAP Annual Education Conference: November 14 and 15 - in person!
- HPV Vaccine and Preventing Oral Cancer - Lunch 'n' Learn with DuPage County Health Department: November 13 at 12PM
 - See the last page for more information
- AAP Immunizations Update and Best Practices from Other States Webinar: December 4 at 12PM



or register at
illinoisaap.org/events



Quick Updates and Reminders

- ✓ Kentucky's vaccination rate for kindergarteners rose 2 percentage points in the 2022-2023 school year compared with the year before! [Read more.](#)
- ✓ Environmental Scan of Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination: [Clinical Provider Perspectives.](#)
- ✓ [Childhood Discussion Guides](#) from the AAP now available in multiple languages! Please [evaluate](#) this collection of tools.
- ✓ [35 minute CME opportunity:](#) Establishing FLUency: Building Blocks to Recommending Pediatric and Adult Influenza Vaccines
- ✓ Updated [standing orders](#) for all 2024-2025 COVID vaccine products are now available!





Dr. Nadia Qureshi

HPV Vaccine and Preventing Oral Cancer

Please join the DuPage County Health Department for a Lunch and Learn on the HPV vaccine and preventing oral cancer hosted in collaboration with the Illinois Chapter, of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) and presented by ICAAP Pediatrician **Dr. Nadia Qureshi**.

Dr. Nadia Qureshi is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Loyola University Medical Center, where she has been working as a General Pediatrician and Pediatric Infectious Disease specialist for over a decade. Her primary interests include vaccines, antibiotic stewardship, and nutrition. A passionate advocate for vaccination, Dr. Qureshi is deeply invested in educating families about the importance of immunizations. She believes in empowering parents with accurate, evidence-based information so they can make informed decisions that protect their children's health.

Target audience: Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, and Allied Health Professionals including dental hygienists, dental assistants, and health educators.

We are providing continuing medical education (CMEs) for physicians and there are CEUs for dentists and dental hygienists available*.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) and Cancer Prevention – It Matters!

Join this webinar to learn about the link between HPV and various cancers, including cervical, oropharyngeal, and other HPV-associated malignancies. We will discuss HPV vaccinations and why they are important to overall health – including oral health! Participants will also review common barriers to HPV vaccination and learn strategies for effectively communicating the benefits of vaccination as a cancer prevention method to patients and their families within the medical and oral health settings.

Learning objectives - At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the link between Human papillomavirus (HPV) and various cancers, including cervical, oropharyngeal, and other HPV-associated malignancies.
- State current guidelines and recommendations for HPV vaccination in adolescents.
- Identify common barriers to HPV vaccination, such as cultural beliefs, misinformation, and vaccine hesitancy.
- Apply strategies to effectively communicate the benefits of HPV vaccination to patients and their families within the medical and oral health settings.



This is a virtual meeting and registration is required.

◀ Scan QR Code with your phone's camera or register online:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LZe3kc-ISI-vONA25roIXg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.