



# Alaska Immunization Program

## Help Us Help You

The Alaska Immunization Program has various staff who work with specific subjects within our program. For this reason, we recommend you contact us by email at [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov) or with the Helpline (Anchorage: 907-269-8088, Toll Free: 1-888-430-4321).

Your emails and calls can then be forwarded to appropriate, available program staff members preventing delays in our responding to your questions and needs. If your communication is VacTrAK related, please continue to use the [VacTrAK support](#) email and phone line.

To further expedite processing, your communication with our program, include your PIN, facility name, and reason for your contact. Name emailed attachments for easy identification as they will not be opened for review without such information (e.g. 000006\_FallsClinic\_TempExcursion).

Utilizing the above mentioned program contacts and including the information mentioned will help us help you.

## Nominate an Immunization Champion

The *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award* recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution

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toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. This year, a new partner will join CDC to honor those who are doing an exemplary job or going above and beyond to promote or foster childhood immunization among children 0-2 years old in their communities.

You can find the nomination packet and additional information [here](#). Submit nominations to the [Alaska Immunization Program](#) by February 8, 2019.

## VacTrAK Forecast Issues

This is a known forecasting issue with meningococcal MCV4P/MenACWY: If meningococcal vaccine is administered at 10 years of age, VacTrAK incorrectly forecasts another dose at 11 years of age. Meningococcal (MCV4P/MenACWY) vaccine should be counted as part of the routine 2-dose series, if administered at 10 years of age; the next dose should be received at 16 years of age.

The recommended schedule for meningococcal vaccine is at 11 years and the second (booster) dose at 16 years for adolescents.

## Dear Izzy

This is a new section of the newsletter that highlights questions from the Immune Helpline.

**Dear Izzy,**

In the vaccine forecast section of VacTrAK, I noticed the status of one of the vaccines said “Optional”. What does that mean? –MN

**MN,**

Thank you for the great question! “Optional” in the forecast means that a particular vaccine has met the minimum interval to be given. This is where you would use your clinical judgement for that particular patient. If this patient will not return for the recommended interval you may want to recommend that they receive the vaccine at this visit. For more information on minimum and recommended intervals please refer to the [CDC's Pink Book](#), or contact

the Immunization Helpline (907) 269-8088 or [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov)

**Dear Izzy,**

I had a patient come into the clinic for a flu shot. They have had a flu vaccine every year for several years. When I reviewed their VacTrAK history, they had received two flu shots this season, and VacTrAK is forecasting that they are due again. I did not give them a shot during their visit. Should I have given them a third shot? –KP

**KP,**

Great clinical thinking by not given them that third shot. Sometimes VacTrAK can have errors with forecasting. You should always use your clinical judgement when reviewing the data used for administering vaccine. When you find errors like this, please email [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov) or call the Immunization Helpline (907) 269-8088.

## Hepatitis B in Pregnancy

Providers please send in Prenatal Report forms for HBV-positive pregnant women using the [form](#) available online. For additional questions, please contact the Immunization Helpline (907) 269-8088 or [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov)

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Division of Public Health

**Immunization Program**

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