



Alaska Immunization Program

Influenza Disease Update

-from Alaska Chief Medical Officer, Dr Anne Zink

Flu is still circulating throughout Alaska and it is not too late for people to get a flu vaccine. Getting an annual flu vaccine can prevent against influenza and promote overall health. Flu currently poses a far greater health risk to Alaskans than COVID-19.

Influenza B remains the predominant strain this season (see the SOE [Flu Snapshot](#)); however, influenza A H1N1 activity is beginning to increase considerably in the Lower 48 suggesting that there may be a second wave of influenza activity on its way to Alaska. Visit our [flu website](#) to learn more. You can also [sign up to receive our weekly Flu Snapshot updates](#). If your patients are wondering why it's important to get a flu shot every year, the [CDC has helpful materials for providers](#). Please let patients know that it's not too late to get vaccinated. Even if they do get the flu, they will likely get a milder case and be at lower risk for hospitalization with the vaccine.

Influenza Vaccine Update

Continue ordering state-supplied influenza vaccine as needed in VacTrAK. GSK Fluarix (pre-filled syringes, aged 6+ mos) is now out of stock but there is plenty of both Sanofi Fluzone (multi-dose vials, aged 6+ mos) and Sanofi Fluzone High Dose (pre-filled syringes, aged 65+ yrs).

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VFC Policy Update: Td/Tdap Vaccine and Orders

Effective January 1, 2020, VFC enrolled providers are no longer required to routinely order and carry Td vaccine in addition to Tdap vaccine. ACIP approved, during their [October 2019 meeting](#), that either Td or Tdap vaccine can be used in situations where in the past only Td vaccine was recommended:

- Booster doses administered every 10 years
- Tetanus prophylaxis wound management
- Catch-up immunization

The *option* to order Td in addition to other diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis containing vaccines remains.

Expanded Adult Formulary

The adult portion of the Immunization Program [formulary](#) has expanded to now include all ACIP recommended vaccines. Also, the Immunization Program-imposed age restrictions no longer apply. Follow the product inserts, [ACIP recommendations](#), and the [2020 Adult Eligibility](#) to determine which adult patients are eligible to receive state-supplied vaccine.

Manufacturer Code (MVX) for TDVAX

In alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization Information System Support Branch (IISSB), the MVX code for TDVAX should reflect manufacturer code MBL for Massachusetts Biological Laboratories. Currently, VacTrAK lists the manufacturer code as GRF based on guidance when the product was previously listed under the product name Td, adsorbed. ([CDC Code Tables](#))

VacTrAK will be updated on April 1, 2020 to allow ample time for a provider reporting electronically to update their Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. Once an EHR is updated, immediately notify the VacTrAK Help desk. Upon notification, we will update current stock and new TDVAX requests to avoid any administration pulling into Correct Lot Decrementing prior to April 1st.



Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

Do I need to opt-in to AVAP to administer state-supplied vaccine to adults 19+ yrs old?

~RS

Dear RS,

No. All providers who receive state-supplied vaccine can administer to fully insured eligible adults. See the [Adult Eligibility](#) chart. The optional opt-in survey allows you to also administer to uninsured adults.

Dear Izzy,

What is shared clinical decision-making?

~TM

Dear TM,

CDC has issued a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to provide clarity on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) shared clinical decision-making recommendations. [Read the FAQs.](#)

Providers submitting administration manually will see all current stock and new requests updated on April 1st.

Contact VacTrAK Helpdesk with any questions or concerns.

Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP) News

The [Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) honored AVAP as the 2019's Children's Organization of the Year.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

Congratulations to Alaska Native Medical Center and JBER 673rd Medical Group for continued accomplishment of receiving an award for the Hep B Birth Dose Honor Roll. Check out the Alaska birth Dose Honorees on the [Immunization Action Coalition \(IAC\)](#) website.

Reminder for providers to promote the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose for all newborn infants by 24 hours of age as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and supported by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#).

Also, remember the [postvaccination serologic testing \(PVST\)](#) for infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers is recommended at **9-12** months of age.

For Hepatitis B Prevention during pregnancy, please **Screen, Test, Educate**, and Provide Prophylaxis Interventions when indicated. For more information call the [Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program](#) through the Immunization Helpline at 907-269-8088. The pregnant women provided with information on the birth dose, series completion and PVST education before the infant arrives and at each well-baby visit prepares the parent for the steps needed to make sure the infant is protected against potential cancer-causing hepatitis infection.

Request to Add/Modify VacTrAK User Form



Authorization to Add/Modify Users

*Indicates a required field

Request Type*	User Information	Permission(s) * (Check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Add	First Name* Jane	<input type="checkbox"/> View user
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modify	Middle Initial* R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit user
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove	Last Name* Doe	<input type="checkbox"/> Lot Manager (private vaccine stock only)
	Credentials	State-supplied Vaccine Management (Limit one each per VFC PIN)
	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Vaccine Coordinator
	Email*	<input type="checkbox"/> Back-up Vaccine Coordinator

When you make contact changes for your Vaccine Coordinator or Back-up Vaccine Coordinator through the [Add/Modify User Form](#), it is important to also remove or modify the previous contacts. "Remove" staff who no longer work at your facility or who no longer need access to VacTrAK. "Modify" staff who are no longer a Vaccine Coordinator but still need access to VacTrAK.

Alaska Immunization Program Staff Updates

Paul Guzman, VacTrAK staff, retired 12/31/2019.

Sarah Aho, Training and Education Manager, resigned to be a full time mom 11/22/2019.

3 new positions within the Immunization Program will soon be posted to [Workplace Alaska](#), including a Health Program Associate, a Health Program Manager II (VacTrAK Manager), and an Epidemiology Specialist II. Be sure to check out [Workplace Alaska](#) if you're interested in working for the Immunization Program.

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