



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

The Alaska Immunization Program is doing our part to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by teleworking. All hotlines will be checked periodically for messages. The best way to receive assistance is to contact us by email.

- General questions, IQIP, Perinatal Hep B program, and AVAP: immune@alaska.gov
- VFC Program: vfc@alaska.gov
- Vaccine Distribution and Inventory Management: vaccinedepot@alaska.gov
- VacTrAK : vactrak@alaska.gov
- Self ImmAGE: selfimage@alaska.gov



VacTrAK has implemented a new version (v.5.29.2) effective June 9th, 2020. The following updates indicate important system changes:

1. Addition of Free-Text Lot Numbers for Private Inventory
 - Added functionality to enter free-text lot information via manual entry

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Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

How can I stay informed about the latest on COVID-19?

~TS

Dear TS,

- This functionality will not meet acceptable reporting requirements for entry with Public Lot Numbers
- Guide for utilization can be found here: [Free-Text Lot Number Entry for Private Lots](#)

2. Changes to Patient Active/Inactive Status

- The Active status in VacTrAK is changing as the system goes from a 1:1 Active status at the Facility level to a three level Active status at the Organizational, Regional, and State levels.
- For more information, please reference our guide located here: [Active/Inactive Status and VacTrAK](#)

3. Changes and Updates to Meningococcal B Forecasting

- Starting June 9th, VacTrAK will forecast for the first dose of Meningococcal B and a “Clinical Discretion” message will be displayed:

Vaccination Forecast					
The forecast automatically switches to the catch-up schedule when a patient is behind schedule.					
Vaccine Group	Forecasted Dose	Recommended Date	Minimum Valid Date	Overdue Date	Status
MENINGOCOCCAL B, OMV (Clinical Discretion)	1	05/25/2020	05/25/2014	06/24/2020	Due Now

Influenza Vaccine Returns

Process a [return](#) for all spoiled and expired influenza vaccines - as you would for any other state-supplied vaccine - and mail them to the Alaska Immunization Program at 3601 C St Suite 586 Anchorage, AK 99503. Do **not** dispose of influenza vaccine at your facility.

New Reusable Shipping Containers for Frozen Vaccine

New Reusable Shipping Containers for Frozen Vaccine

This summer, Merck will start shipping Varivax frozen vaccine in a reusable container. Merck will be replacing the current Styrofoam container with reusable shipping containers to help reduce waste and negative impacts on our environment. Please be aware that:

- The reusable shipping container will look different than the Styrofoam containers providers have been familiar with receiving and

For the latest information on COVID-19 check the [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19](#) website and the [CDC COVID-19](#) website. Check these sites regularly to stay informed on the newest information and mandates. To get the latest information by email or text sign up [here](#).

- Providers are expected to mail the containers back to the container's manufacturer Aerosafe (via a postage paid return label on the container, at no cost to the provider)

See Merck's [return instructions](#) and [demo video](#) (scroll down web page to find video) for more information

Resources & Training

We have extended the due date for [VFC Provider Staff Training](#) until June 30, 2020. Please ensure your facility stay compliant by finishing the training before the 30th. If you need assistance with the training, please contact immune@alaska.gov.

We are still available to mail out educational resources to facilities. If you need resource materials fill out the [Immunization Order Form](#) and submit it online or fax it to us at 907-562-7802.

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