



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: afc@alaska.gov
- Vaccine distribution and inventory management: vaccinedepot@alaska.gov
- VacTrAK : vactrak@alaska.gov
- Self ImmAGE: selfimmune@alaska.gov

2022 VFC Recertification – Provider task deadline February 14, 2022

As of January 30, 2022, only 32 of our 156 VFC enrolled providers have met the requirements needed for CDC required recertification. Our thanks to those of you who are now recertified to continue VFC participation.

Reminder to those for who are not yet recertified: Providers may not participate in the VFC Program if your existing Provider Agreement expires, and we have not approved a new Provider Agreement for you.

VFC Provider Agreements are approved only when:

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Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

1. Provider submitted agreements are completed in VacTrAK with accurate information;
2. All required provider staff training has been completed (more than 200 staff members overall had not met this requirement as of January 30);
3. Providers are in good standing with other VFC requirements (example: VFC site visit follow up tasks are not past due);
4. Immunization program staff have completed required tasks after providers have met above.

Provider staff should track their facility's completion of required tasks and monitor Provider Agreement statuses in VacTrAK:

- If status is "Submitted", ensure you have met all task requirements to prevent an approval delay.
- If status is "Pending Submission", complete the Provider Agreement and *submit* via VacTrAK.

Additional reminder: this year a signature page is not required; submission of the Provider Agreement in VacTrAK is considered an electronic signature from the certifying provider.

Please note that the large number of outstanding provider level actions will impact our program's approval task timeline. Recertification contact: immune@alaska.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Everyone 12 or older is eligible for a [COVID-19 vaccine booster](#). Updated resources are posted to [CDC](#) and covidvax.alaska.gov.

Boosters are also available for [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) individuals who completed a 3-dose mRNA primary series.

- For people who received a Moderna or Pfizer vaccine initially, a booster is recommended 5 months after their primary series.
- A booster is recommended 2 months after an initial Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

VAC TRAK

VacTrAK Updates

I have not received an email from the VacTrAK system that I am waiting for. Can you please let me know why I have not received it?

~SP

Dear SP,

Please whitelist AK-do-not-reply@stchome.com. This has been solving most issues. Also please check your junk mail periodically for VacTrAK system emails. Contact VacTrAK support for any more questions or concerns.

Dear Izzy,

Are there anymore of the growth charts available? How can our facility receive more growth charts?

~PL

Dear PL,

The growth charts are still available through the [Alaska Immunization Program Educational Material Order Form](#) along with other educational materials. The form can be faxed to 907-562-7802 or emailed to immune@alaska.gov.

Dear Izzy,

What is the address to return expired/spoiled state vaccines?

~TS

Dear TS,

Expired and spoiled state vaccines can be mail to

Alaska Immunization Program

3601 C Street, Suite 586

- As of January 18, 2022, race and ethnicity fields are required for both manual and electronic submission of vaccination administration data. This change is intended to improve the detection of pockets of need and communities with low vaccination rates. The VacTrAK team will be reaching out to providers on an individual basis if there are errors from missing data after this deadline. Please be on the lookout for these communications. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact the VacTrAK team at vactrak@alaska.gov
- Please update phone numbers as patients come to visit you! VacTrAK and consumer access applications (more information coming soon) use phone numbers as a matching criterion. Having the most up-to-date phone number in the IIS improves matching and merges.
- For COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer is starting the transition between their purple cap product to the grey cap product. As you receive the grey cap vaccine, please remember that the grey cap is a different product with a different CVX code (217) and a different name in VacTrAK (COVID-19, mRNA, LNP-S, PF, 30 mcg/0.3 mL dose, tris-sucrose). Please switch products in your EHR as you receive the grey cap product for the first time.

Anchorage, AK 99503

Any questions on state vaccine transportation can be sent to vaccinedepot@alaska.gov.

IQIP Update

Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) is a process shared with Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers to improve immunization services. Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers participate in a program to offer vaccines at no cost to children, to help ensure children have a better chance of getting recommended vaccinations and that means healthier children. It is widely known that vaccine-preventable diseases are significantly reduced by use of vaccinations. Yes, vaccinations are the greatest achievements of modern medicine! Now is not the time to be complacent about the importance of ACIP-recommended vaccinations, especially with the anti-vaccination Infodemic. Please do not hesitate to present proper vaccine information to your patients. Communication strategies have been shared to assist in addressing the concerns. One strategy is ASK: Acknowledge concerns, Steer (correct misunderstandings, etc.), Know facts (be confident/prepared). The common theme in effective communication is engaging with empathy.

Helpful resources

AAP Pediatrics on Call has a podcast on vaccine hesitancy: aap.org

Immunization Action Coalition: immunize.org

For more information contact the Immunization Program Nurse Consultant 907-269-8088 or immune@alaska.gov

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) focuses on preventing the spread of hepatitis B virus from infected mothers to newborns. Preventing the spread of hepatitis B virus requires that we collaborate to screen, test, educate, and provide prophylaxis interventions (STEPPI). Please educate/share information with parents, the importance of hepatitis B vaccine series completion and the post-vaccination serology testing for the infant born to the mother with a positive HBsAg lab. Share the information at each well-child visit.

Helpful Resources

CDC Viral Hepatitis information Perinatal Transmission: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Contact the PHBPP Nurse Consultant for more information 907-269-8088 or immune@alaska.gov.

Maternal Child Health & Immunization Virtual Conference

The conference provides an opportunity for health professionals to learn about best practices for emerging maternal child and family health issues in Alaska. Registration and other information for this conference (February 22-24, 2022) can be found here: <http://alaskamchconference.org/index.html>. This website will be updated as more information becomes available.

Resources & Training

VacTrAK is offering daily training on our user interface from 12pm-1pm. This is a great place to refresh your VacTrAK knowledge or ask questions.
<https://zoom.us/j/95413335230?pwd=Wnk2eUZnT3hRaHJ5ZXQrdmNoeU9ZUT09>
Meeting ID: 954 1333 5230 Passcode: Y4eyac

PrepMod is offering trainings on how to utilize PrepMod for COVID, flu, childhood, or blended vaccination clinics. If you are interested in utilizing PrepMod, please contact prepmod@alaska.gov for more information and to get started.

Vaccine related MMWRs

- [Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 20-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)

- [Use of Recombinant Zoster Vaccine in Immunocompromised Adults Aged ≥19 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Children and Adolescents Aged 1–17 Years Who Received an Influenza Vaccine Within the Past 12 Months, by Health Insurance Coverage and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2019–2020](#)
- [Update on Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Outbreaks — Worldwide, January 2020–June 2021](#)
- [Influenza A\(H3N2\) Outbreak on a University Campus — Michigan, October–November 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness — Six U.S. Jurisdictions, December 2020–August 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Acute Nonviral Hepatitis Linked to a Brand of Alkaline Bottled Water — Clark County, Nevada and California, 2020](#)
- [Progress Toward Regional Measles Elimination — Worldwide, 2000–2020](#)
- [Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged ≥18 Years Who Received an Influenza Vaccination in the Past 12 Months, by Sex and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2020](#)

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