



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

Fall is a great time to ensure patients are up-to-date for all of their recommended immunizations. We just launched an updated [flu vaccine dashboard](#) and so far flu vaccine uptake is down about 25% compared to the same time last year. There is a surge in respiratory disease nationwide, although flu cases are still fairly low in Alaska.

[Flu.alaska.gov](#) summarizes surveillance data, materials you can use, and vaccine information. Patients can receive their flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster at the same appointment, boosting protection and getting ready for the winter. There is a new webpage focusing on flu and COVID-19 vaccines currently that we plan to add more information throughout next year, [vaccinate.alaska.gov](#). This, combined with [vaccinationrecords.alaska.gov](#), gives Alaskans the information to support their own health and we hope also provides a valuable resource to vaccine providers.

Docket - Digital immunization record app now available

Download Docket from the [App or Google Play Store](#) App or Google Play Store for easy access to electronic immunization records.

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Ask Izzy



Docket is a secure tool that requires verification of a phone number or email address listed in VacTrAK. You can assist patients with viewing their own and their children's records in Docket by checking that VacTrAK reflects correct primary phone and email address.

Help spread the word about Docket! Place a poster order [HERE](#) by Wednesday, November 9th.

Provider Training and Support Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm. <https://zoom.us/j/98863734903?pwd=YVdPand5VDJ6RkjiRIIWMUfnQ0ZmUT09>

Please reach out to hss.dph.epi.docket@alaska.gov with any questions or concerns. Support materials including a video about Docket are also available at vaccinationrecords.alaska.gov.

VAC TRAK VacTrAK Update

Please be mindful of accurate data entry for phone numbers, email addresses, and race/ethnicity data. As Alaskans increasingly use Docket, it becomes readily apparent that an individual's immunization record is only as complete or accessible as VacTrAK data.

COVID-19 Shipment Update

Dear Izzy,

I am a principal, and our school has a 19-year-old student enrolled. Can this student receive state-supplied vaccine?

PJ

Dear PJ~

Yes, this student may receive state-supplied vaccine. Our program is committed to ensuring that school required vaccines are available to students who meet Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 4.06.055 enrollment criteria (linked [here](#))

For a list of providers who administer state-supplied vaccines to children and adults, visit [here](#).

If a student meets AAC 4.06.055 enrollment criteria and needs school required immunizations (also found in the AAC link above), state-supplied vaccine may be administered. If the student does not meet AVAP or VFC funding eligibility criteria, contact immune@alaska.gov for assistance.

Thermal Shippers and Controlant DDLs:

- Beginning November 2022, *Medium ULT shippers* and their Controlant DDLs are no longer allowed for temporary storage and must be returned upon receipt.
- All Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shipments will continue to have Controlant DDLs for in-transit temperature monitoring. Beginning November 24, 2022, providers are now required to press the 'Stop' button on the Controlant DDL upon receipt, to receive the final report.
 - *Small and Large ULT shippers* may be used for temporary storage but providers must install their own appropriate temperature monitoring device

Routine Vaccine Shipments during the Holiday Season

Vaccine Shipments in November and December could experience delays due to:

- Heavier holiday workload for FedEx, USP, and USPS
- Merck, McKesson, Pfizer's limited holiday shipping schedules
- Weather delays

Monitor your inventory closely and plan your vaccine orders carefully to allow plenty of time. Do not wait until you are out or almost out of vaccine before placing an order, no matter what time of the year it is.

Orders placed after November 18th may not be shipped prior to November 28th. Orders submitted after December 13th may not be shipped until January.

If you receive a shipment from McKesson that has been in transit too long and/or contains activated temperature monitors, please contact vaccinedepot@alaska.gov.

Influenza Vaccines update

Fluzone HD and Fluvad vaccines are no longer available for public ordering but may still be available for private purchase. Other influenza vaccines are still available for ordering through VacTrAK. While ACIP recommends a high-dose or adjuvanted flu vaccine for adults age 65+, any flu vaccine available may be administered if it is age-appropriate.

IQIP

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
- Immunize.org, formerly known as the Immunization Action Coalition: immunize.org

For more information contact the Immunization Program Nurse Consultant at 907-269-8088 or email 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

- [Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Report Form](#)
- CDC Viral Hepatitis information Perinatal Transmission: cdc.gov

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

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 flu or childhood vaccination clinics. If you are interested in utilizing PrepMod, please contact prepmod@alaska.gov for more information and to get started.

Docket is offering Provider Training and Support Sessions held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm.

- <https://zoom.us/j/98863734903?pwd=YVdPand5VDJ6RkJiRIIWMUFnQ0ZmUT09>

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MWWRs

- [Wastewater Testing and Detection of Poliovirus Type 2 Genetically Linked to Virus Isolated from a Paralytic Polio Case — New York, March 9–October 11, 2022](#)
- [Influenza Incidence and Vaccine Effectiveness During the Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season — Chile, 2022](#)
- [Vital Signs: Influenza Hospitalizations and Vaccination Coverage by Race and Ethnicity—United States, 2009–10 Through 2021–22 Influenza Seasons](#)
- [Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel — United States, 2021–22](#)
- [Respiratory Virus Surveillance Among Children with Acute Respiratory Illnesses— New Vaccine Surveillance Network, United States, 2016–2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Residential Care Communities that Offer Annual Influenza Vaccination to Residents and to Employees and Contract Staff Members, by Community Bed Size — United States, 2020](#)
- [Widespread Hepatitis A Outbreaks Associated with Person-to-Person Transmission — United States, 2016–2020](#)
- [Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Children: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [National Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2021](#)
- [Progress Toward Measles Elimination — South-East Asia Region, 2003–2020](#)
- [Public Health Response to a Case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis in an Unvaccinated Person and Detection of Poliovirus in Wastewater — New York, June–August 2022](#)

Monkeypox MWWR

- [Incidence of Monkeypox Among Unvaccinated Persons Compared with Persons Receiving \$\geq 1\$ JYNNEOS Vaccine Dose — 32 U.S. Jurisdictions, July 31–September 3, 2022](#)
- [High-Contact Object and Surface Contamination in a Household of Persons with *Monkeypox Virus* Infection — Utah, June 2022](#)
- [Interim Guidance for the Prevention and Treatment of Monkeypox in Persons with HIV Infection — United States, August 2022](#)

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