



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

As we prepare for fall, there are a few new vaccines on the imminent horizon. These vaccines will be available through the Immunization Program via the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and/or Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP). It is important to consider maximizing protection as we enter a season known for respiratory disease. The Immunization Program will share regular weekly updates about these products and timelines through the Let's Talk Vaccines newsletter. Please [sign up here](#) if you aren't on the list yet!

- Flu vaccine orders open on August 23. Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone ages six months and older, and all Alaskans are eligible for state-supplied flu vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccines will be available in September through VFC and AVAP. This monovalent formulation will protect against the variant XBB.1.5. Stay tuned for the final FDA and ACIP recommendations.
- RSV vaccines for adults 60 and older will be available through AVAP. Nirsevimab, a monoclonal RSV antibody, will be available through VFC and AVAP early this fall.

Immunization Champion

This National Immunization Awareness Month, we are pleased to announce Jo Miller, PA-C with Tanana Chiefs Conference, as the AIM Immunization Champion Award winner for Alaska. This

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Ask Izzy



prestigious award honors individuals at the local level who go above and beyond to foster and promote vaccines for adults and/or children in their communities. Jo has worked tirelessly to support vaccination in Alaska's rural patients. Congratulations to Jo and thank you for the incredible work that you do! Please take a moment to learn more about the Immunization Champion awardees [here](#).



Dear Izzy,

Will VacTrAK Support no longer host daily training for VacTrAK?

~MR

Dear MR,

VacTrAK has moved away from daily training at noon, but feel free to contact us for any questions at either vactrak@alaska.gov or 907-269-0312.

VacTrAK does have a new Learning Management System (LMS) and you can learn more information on [the LMS handout](#).



AVAP Council Meeting

The next AVAP Council Meeting is September 14, 2023 at 9:30 am at the BP Energy Center 1014 Energy Ct. Anchorage, AK.

Below is the Zoom registration information for those that cannot attend in person.

- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-yvqT4oGdCwEuBkQyjo90WqGRb6P73I>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



New VacTrAK Manager

Please give a warm welcome to Monette Schwoerer, our new VacTrAK Manager. She has previously worked with the PrepMod and Docket teams, and we're happy for her to lead the VacTrAK team. VacTrAK continues to offer support and trainings, accessible through a new learning management system, or via email at vactrak@alaska.gov.

Vaccine Management

Flu orders will open on August 23, 2023, after the publication of the epi bulletin

- Please reach out to vaccinedepot@alaska.gov if you have any questions
 - Include your PIN in the subject line for fast service
-

New IQIP and Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator

Danielle Dixon is the new Public Health Specialist managing the IQIP and Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention programs. She will be responsible for coordinating IQIP visits and Perinatal Hep B support services. If you have any questions regarding either program, you can contact her with the Immunization Program information listed below or directly at 907-269-8013 and danielle.dixon@alaska.gov.

IQIP

IQIP is CDC's national, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider-level immunization quality improvement (QI) program. IQIP serves to assist and support health care providers by identifying opportunities to improve vaccine uptake and to help providers be:

- Motivated to try new vaccination service delivery strategies and incorporate changes into their current practices
- Supported in sustaining changes to their vaccination recommendations and service delivery
- Aware of and knowledgeable about vaccination coverage and missed opportunities to vaccinate
- Able to use available data from the IIS to improve services and coverage

For more information contact the Immunization Program Public Health Specialist at 907-269-8088 or email immune@alaska.gov.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

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 Public Health Specialist at 907-269-8088 or email immune@alaska.gov.

New Back-To-School and HPV Vaccine Outreach Materials Available!



Check out the Alaska Immunization Program [Education and Outreach Materials order form](#) to view posters, flyers and handouts to encourage staying up to date on vaccines as kids head back to school! New materials include an informational handout about the HPV vaccine that was developed in partnership with [Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska!](#) Our order form is now in an online only format – please let us know if you have any difficulty placing an order and we'd be happy to help! Immune@alaska.gov

MMWRs

- [Notes from the Field: Measles Outbreak — Central Ohio, 2022–2023](#)
- [Demographic Disparities in Mpox Vaccination Series Completion, by Route of Vaccine Administration — California, August 9, 2022–March 31, 2023](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged ≥18 Years who Received an Influenza Vaccination in the Past 12 Months, by Race and Ethnicity and Family Income — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2021](#)
- [Progress Toward Hepatitis B Control and Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus — World Health Organization African Region, 2016–2021](#)
- [Use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccines in Older Adults: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)
- [Status of New Vaccine Introduction — Worldwide, 2016–2021](#)
- [Disparities in COVID-19 Disease Incidence by Income and Vaccination Coverage — 81 Communities, Los Angeles, California, July 2020–September 2021](#)
- [Progress Toward Rubella Elimination — World Health Organization South-East Asia Region, 2013–2021](#)

- [Effectiveness of Up-to-Date COVID-19 Vaccination in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents — United States, November 20, 2022–January 8, 2023](#)
- [Interim Recommendations for Use of Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Persons Aged ≥6 Months — United States, April 2023](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Tetanus in an Unvaccinated Man from Mexico — Oregon, 2022](#)
- [Progress Toward Equitable Mpox Vaccination Coverage: A Shortfall Analysis — United States, May 2022–April 2023](#)

- [Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Vaccine Durability in Preventing COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization and Critical Illness Among Adults with and Without Immunocompromising Conditions — VISION Network, September 2022–April 2023](#)
- [Estimated Effectiveness of JYNNEOS Vaccine in Preventing Mpox: A Multijurisdictional Case-Control Study — United States, August 19, 2022–March 31, 2023](#)
- [Effectiveness of JYNNEOS Vaccine Against Diagnosed Mpox Infection — New York, 2022](#)
- [Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Worldwide, January 2021–March 2023](#)

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