

ISSUE NUMBER 5 • SUMMER 2015



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager **IN THIS ISSUE**

1-2-3 Protect Alaska's Kids – HPV Cancer Prevention Campaign

In July, the Alaska Immunization Program launched a statewide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination promotion communication campaign targeted to the general public, as part of grant activities to improve vaccination uptake in adolescents. The communication campaign features public service announcements (PSAs) by two local Alaskans, Dr. Joanie Mayer Hope a gynecological oncologist, and "Patti" a mom and cancer survivor. HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention PSA's are being aired for a period of 12-weeks in the following media outlet/venues: GCI cable statewide (18 communities), Anchorage television (KTUU, KTBY), Anchorage radio (KGOT, KYMG, KMXS), Fairbanks television (KAKQ, KWLF, KWDD), Juneau television (KINY, KJNO), Juneau radio (KSUP, KTKU), Pandora radio statewide, social media, and internet ads.

In addition, a 1-2-3 Protect Alaska's Kids HPV Cancer Prevention campaign webpage was launched thru the Alaska Immunization Program website at www.epi.alaska.gov/immunize. The campaign-specific webpage features information about HPV disease, HPV vaccine, campaign public service announcements, tools and resources for download or order, and links to continuing education webinars.

The Section of Epidemiology's Vaccine Depot plans to transition HPV

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Immunization Helpline FAQ's.

Does the State Immunization Program have adult vaccine supply available? If so, which vaccines.

Adults are eligible to receive [select](#) state-supplied vaccines at participating provider locations depending upon [eligibility criteria](#).

The select vaccines include the following for adults 19+ years of age

vaccine available in the State formulary from the Gardasil quadrivalent vaccine (4vHPV) to Gardasil9 (9vHPV) in September, earlier than initially projected. An Epi Bulletin on the new 9-valent HPV vaccine, recommendations, and supply availability will be published soon.

unless otherwise specified:
-HPV (females 19 thru 26 years and males 19 thru 21 years of age)
-Meningococcal (19 thru 20 years of age)
-Pneumovax (PPSV23)
-Td/Tdap
-Zoster (for 60 thru 64 years of age)
-Flu (2015-16 season)

To Get Parents to Vaccinate Their Kids, Don't Ask. Just Tell.

Research finds that a physicians' communication approach has an influence on parental resistance to immunizations. A [study](#) by Dr. Doug Opel, a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital and researcher at the University of Washington, and colleagues found that pediatricians who tell parents that their child needed a vaccination rather than asked if they wanted one, met less parental resistance.

The study, described in the December 2013 issue of Pediatrics, included parents that were vaccine hesitant and some not. Three-quarters of the providers (74%) initiated vaccine recommendations using a format which simply presumed that a parent was going to be fine with the vaccines (eg 'Johnnie's due for DTaP and Hib today'). The others used a participatory approach, inviting parents to select and discuss their feelings about vaccines (eg 'What do you want to do about vaccines today?').

The study's surprising results were that when doctors assumed parents would accept their vaccine recommendations, they were. More than 70 percent had their child vaccinated. On the other hand, when they were more flexible most of the parents, 83 percent, decided against vaccination. The difference in vaccination outcome was largely based on how the doctor began the conversation.

Hot Topic

Vaccines for Children (VFC): Administration Fees for non-Medicaid VFC-eligible children.

The federal legislation that created the VFC program requires that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services establish a limit on the amount that a provider can charge and be reimbursed for administration of vaccines to VFC-eligible children.

In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1396s, Alaska's VFC-enrolled providers must not charge a vaccine administration fee to non-Medicaid VFC-eligible children that exceeds the administration fee cap of \$ 27.44 per vaccine dose (determined by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services).

Providers agree to uphold this requirement when they sign the Provider Agreement to receive state-supplied vaccine. Additional information regarding vaccine administration fees is also provided in the following documents located on our website:

- [Alaska Vaccine Distribution Handbook](#)
- [Excerpts from CDC's 2015 The Vaccines for Children Operations Guide](#) (which includes a copy of the federal law)
- [2015 State-supplied Vaccine Eligibility for Children 0 through 18 Years of Age](#)

Providers and their staff need to be aware of the vaccine administration fee for their non-Medicaid VFC-eligible children as CDC specifically states charging more than the established maximum regional fee cap for this population is an example of potential fraud. Providers can better protect themselves against a fraud investigation by ensuring their practice remains compliant with this requirement.

Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program



AVAP has recently published a [2015 VaxFacts Annual Report](#) which is available electronically on their website at www.akvaccine.org. It provides an update on Alaska's innovative approach to improve public health.

VacTrAK



A new resource, the [VacTrAK Monthly Inventory Assessment](#), has been posted on the Alaska Immunization Program website. It provides guidance on how to assess your state-supplied vaccine inventory and conduct an accurate monthly reconciliation in VacTrAK.

When you conduct your monthly inventory reconciliation, if your physical count of doses on hand does not match your VacTrAK reconciliation page, there may be a problem with your administration data and you will need to investigate and resolve the cause of the discrepancies. If doses then still need to be added to or subtracted from your inventory in VacTrAK, use the appropriate reconciliation reasons as described in the VacTrAK Monthly Inventory Assessment.

It is important for all providers to accurately assess and account for each state-supplied vaccine dose received. Thank you for your efforts towards proper inventory management. Please call the Vaccine Depot if you have any questions or need help in conducting your monthly inventory reconciliation.

Other helpful VacTrAK resources can be found [here](#) on the Alaska Immunization Program website.

Vaccine Management

2015-16 Influenza

The next influenza season is approaching! The following state-supplied vaccines will be available for providers to order starting in the fall for administration to eligible patients during the 2015-16 influenza season.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine

- Sanofi Fluzone pre-filled syringe, 0.25mL, quadrivalent, 6 thru 35 months
- Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vial, 5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+
- GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, quadrivalent, 36 months+
- FluMist intranasal spray, 0.2mL, quadrivalent, 2 thru 49 years

Adult Influenza Vaccine

- Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vial, 5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+
- GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, quadrivalent, 36 months+
- FluMist intranasal spray, 0.2mL, quadrivalent, 2 thru 49 years
- Sanofi Fluzone High-Dose* pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, trivalent, 65 years+

*A limited number of Sanofi Fluzone High-Dose vaccine will be available for providers who serve patients 65 years and older based on prior administration data.

Each provider will place orders in VacTrAK as needed throughout the 2015-16 influenza season. Requests will be considered and filled based on available stock at the Depot. Our goal is that all providers will receive enough state-supplied vaccine to meet the demand of eligible patients.

To order flu vaccine: Once the first shipment of influenza vaccine has arrived at the Depot in September, you will receive an email plus the influenza order set(s) will appear in your order screen within VacTrAK. Submit your orders online in VacTrAK using the FLU 2015-16 order set or ADU FLU 2015-16 order set. Order pediatric and adult vaccine separately on their appropriate order set. Please consider your storage capacity when choosing how many doses to order at a time so that you do not overload your refrigerator and possibly cause temperature excursions. Based on how much stock is available at the Depot at a time, the Depot staff may reduce your order but you can continue to place additional flu orders as needed throughout the season regardless of your order schedule.

Ensure that your staff knows which patients are eligible to receive state-supplied vaccine. Review the patient eligibility documents [here](#).

Vaccine Inventory Assessment and Management

It is important for all providers to accurately assess and account for each state-supplied vaccine dose received. Thank you for your efforts towards proper inventory management. Please call the Vaccine Depot if you have

any questions or need help in conducting your monthly inventory reconciliation.

Other helpful VacTrAK resources can be found [here](#) on the Alaska Immunization Program website.

Change in Acceptable Storage Unit Types

Starting in 2016, providers using a commercial or household combination storage unit to store state-supplied vaccine will only be allowed to use the refrigerator compartment for vaccine storage. If you currently use the freezer compartment of a commercial or household combination storage unit, you will be required to use a stand-alone freezer instead to store frozen vaccines starting in 2016. See [here](#) for more information on acceptable and prohibited storage unit types plus guidance on purchasing and setting up a new unit if needed.

School & Child Care Compliance

Alaska's children are fortunate to have school and child care staff as partners in their healthcare. School and child care facility staff must ensure children attending their facilities are compliant with state immunization laws and requirements by having on file medically verified documentation of vaccines administered in accordance with the charts found in the [State of Alaska Child Care and School Immunization Requirements Packet](#) or valid documentation of medical exemption, disease history, or religious exemption as applicable. Children who are found to be noncompliant with these requirements are not permitted to attend school or child care unless they meet provisional attendance criteria specified in state law.

Medical providers make a difference in whether or not children attend school by:

- reviewing the State of Alaska Child Care and School Immunization Requirements Packet to ensure practice staff are aware of current school and child care requirements such as minimum spacing intervals and the types of documentation required for medical exemptions or disease history/immunity,
- conducting reminder/recall activities to immunize before their patients become out of compliance for required vaccines,
- ensuring vaccine is available in their practice to serve their population, and
- providing parents with current, medically verified immunization histories or, if applicable, valid documentation of medical exemption or disease history/immunity.

On behalf of school and child care staff, children and their parents, we'd like to thank providers for their efforts to provide children the opportunity to attend school and child care.

AFIX

Correction: The Childrens Clinic was inadvertently omitted from the 2014 list of practices participating in AFIX for children 19 through 35 months of age that was published in the Winter 2015 Issue (#3) of the ImmuneNews.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

Misty Hall recently resigned from her position as a Nurse Consultant with the Alaska Immunization Program. Misty left Alaska to take a position with the federal government in Maine. The Immunization Program wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

Other program staff will provide perinatal hepatitis B case management until this vacancy is filled.

Education & Training Resources

Alaska Immunization Workshops – 2015

Each one-day workshop will reflect on the interdependency of immunization practice standards (Assess, Recommend, Vaccinate, and Document), state reporting laws, and provider responsibilities for receiving state-supplied vaccine.

Sponsored by the State of Alaska Immunization Program
Co-provided by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,
Division of Public Health

Regional workshops will be held:

October 2, 2015 – Fairbanks, AK (Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center)

October 6, 2015 – Nome, AK (Nome Mini-Convention Center)

October 9, 2015 – Anchorage, AK (Providence Alaska Cancer Center or via Live Webinar)

October 13, 2015 – Bethel, AK (Yupit Piciryarait Cultural Center)

October 16, 2015 – Juneau, AK (Centennial Hall)

Registration: FREE

Presented by: Alaska Immunization Program staff

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Review principles of immunization to prevent disease.
2. Describe current ACIP immunization recommendations.
3. Implement CDC evidence-based standards for administering immunizations to prevent disease.
4. Use CDC best practices for vaccine inventory control and storage and handling.
5. Apply three tools in VacTrAK, Alaska's Immunization Information System, to improve patient protection from vaccine-preventable disease and manage vaccine supply.
6. Classify patient eligibility for public and private supplies of vaccine.

Target audience: Nurses, medical assistants, community health aides, physicians, pharmacists, and other staff who work with children, adolescents, and adults in primary care settings.

Register online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B87DWHF>

The Alaska Division of Public Health is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Montana Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Attendance at 80% of this educational event will provide 7.25 nursing contact hours.

An application has been filed with the ANTHC Community Health Aide Program Certification Board for community health aide continuing education approval. Determination of credit is pending.

For more information contact Stephanie Massay at 907-269-5040 or stephanie.massay@alaska.gov

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