



Alaska Immunization Program

Welcome New Staff Members

The Alaska Immunization Program welcomes:

Noel Danielson: Noel has transitioned from her position at the Vaccine Depot to join the VacTrAK support team. She facilitates electronic data exchange between an organization's electronic health record system and VacTrAK.

Annie Peterson-Lewis: Annie joins us as a Nurse Consultant. She coordinates the Perinatal Hepatitis B Program, AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange), and the Immunization Helpline.

Ivory Rodgers: Ivory joins the program's Field Operations team. She conducts provider site visits, as well as ensures school and childcare compliance with immunization regulations.

Sarah Shimer: Sarah joins us as the Education and Training Manager. She coordinates education and training materials for all aspects of the Alaska Immunization Program.

Kyong Yu: Kyong is a visiting fellow through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Associate Program (PHAP). This competitive two-year training opportunity offers hands-on public health experience for dedicated and accomplished individuals.

Sarah Mixson: We thank Sarah Mixson for her time with the Alaska Immunization Program. Her year-long PHAP experience with the Alaska Immunization Program has ended, and she is moving over to the Infectious Disease Program for her second year in Alaska.

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Hot Topic: MMWR

In August and September, the CDC released a number of reports relevant to immunizations. They are listed and linked below.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Announcement: Final 2015–16 Influenza Vaccination Coverage Estimates for Selected Local Areas, States, and the United States Available Online](#) MMWR. 2016; 65(38);1041.

Black CL, Yue X, Ball SW, Donahue SMA, Izrael D, de Perio MA, et al. [Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel — United States, 2015–16 Influenza Season](#) MMWR. 2016;65(38); 1026-31.

Reagan-Steiner S, Yankey D, Jeyarajah J, Elam-Evans LD, Curtis CR, MacNeil J, et al. [National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — United States, 2015](#) MMWR. 2016; 65(33); 850-8.

Top Stories

2016-2017 Influenza Season

Flu season is here! The following [state-supplied vaccines](#) are available for administration to eligible patients during the 2016-2017 influenza season.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine:

- Sanofi Fluzone pre-filled syringe, 0.25mL, quadrivalent, 6-35 months
- Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vial, 5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+
- GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, quadrivalent, 36 months+

Adult Influenza Vaccine:

- Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vial, 5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+
- GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, quadrivalent, 36 months+
- 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.

Emailed updates were sent when the first shipment of vaccine arrived at the Depot. Providers can continue to place orders in VacTrAK using the FLU 2016-2017 or the ADU FLU 2016-2017 order set. Requests will be considered and filled based on availability of stock. As you consider orders, please take into account your storage capacity. Our goal is that all providers will receive enough state-supplied vaccine to meet the demand of eligible patients. Ensure that your staff knows which patients are eligible to receive state-supplied vaccine. As you prepare to use state-supplied vaccine, please review the patient eligibility

documents for [children](#) and [adults](#).

For more information on influenza, please consult these Alaska Epi Bulletins:

[Influenza Vaccine Recommendations and Administration for the 2016-17 Season](#)

[Influenza Vaccines Available During the 2016-17 Season](#)

[Alaska Influenza Surveillance Summary, 2015-16 Season](#)

No FluMist: FluMist intranasal spray will not be available this season due to an [ACIP recommendation](#) made in June. The Vaccine Depot will have plenty of vaccine in other presentations and we do not anticipate any shortage of vaccine.



The AVAP Council met for the third time in 2016 on September 28th. At the meeting, the 2017 assessment rate was set. For general information about AVAP, please visit www.akvaccine.org.

VFC Site Visits and CDC's PEAR System

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program site visits are an integral part of assuring sites are in compliance with VFC requirements. The information collected in a site visit isn't just for the Alaska Immunization Program; it is entered into a CDC program called the Provider Education Assessment and Reporting (PEAR). This secure, confidential online system provides the CDC and the Alaska Immunization Program with the opportunity to monitor certain activities required to ensure appropriate management of VFC funded vaccines.

With PEAR, VFC site visit results and activities are more transparent to CDC than in the past. Site visit results, as well as immunization program and provider level activities, are monitored by CDC staff. For example, during annual audits of state immunization programs, CDC VFC staff report if immunization programs have providers who exceed CDC's deadlines for resolving noncompliance. This transparency allows CDC new options in their endeavor to ensure immunization programs and providers continue to be in good standing with the VFC program.

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



Adolescents need three important vaccines. One can prevent cancer.

Tdap vaccine
One dose protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

Meningococcal vaccine
Two doses (one at age 11 and one at age 16) protect against four types of meningococcal (meningitis) disease. Many universities require this vaccine for admission.

Human papillomavirus vaccine
Three doses prevents many types of cancers. It works best when all three shots are given at age 11-12. Teens and young adults aged 13-26 should get the HPV vaccine if not vaccinated earlier. HPV vaccine is safe and effective in both boys and girls.

1 - 2 - 3 PROTECT ALASKA'S KIDS

Over the last year, the Alaska Immunization Program launched a statewide initiative to promote human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. The final step of this initiative is to notify all 11 through 18 year olds that may need one of the adolescent vaccines (1 dose Tdap vaccine, 2 doses Meningococcal vaccine, 3 doses HPV vaccine). This reminder/recall took place the first week of October. Postcards (pictured) will be mailed statewide to the parents or guardians of adolescents age 11 through 18 who are lacking any of the adolescent vaccine series. Healthcare providers may find an increase in youth seeking adolescent vaccines as a result of this reminder/recall.

Vaccine Inventory Assessment and Management

Thank you for your effort toward proper inventory management! To help aid you in this effort, a new Vaccine Ordering and Management System (VOMS) resource document has been posted on the Alaska Immunization Program website. The [VacTrAK Monthly Inventory Assessment](#) document provides guidance on how to assess your state-supplied vaccine inventory and conduct an accurate monthly reconciliation in VacTrAK. If your physical count of doses on hand does not match your monthly VacTrAK reconciliation page, any discrepancy will need to be resolved as outlined in this new resource document.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

Even if treated at birth to prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B, infants of hepatitis B-infected women who are not immune to hepatitis B face an ongoing risk of infection during infancy and childhood that can result in liver cancer. Despite this danger, not all infants of hepatitis-B infected women receive the complete hepatitis B vaccine series or are tested after they complete the hepatitis B

vaccine series to ensure that they are immune as recommended by CDC.

Providers please make sure to:

- Provide all infants of hepatitis B-infected women with HBIG and a first dose of hepatitis B vaccine promptly after delivery.
- Provide all infants with the hepatitis B vaccine series on time.
- Educate parents about the importance of receiving post-vaccination serology testing for infants born to HBsAg+ mothers.
- Test all infants of hepatitis B-infected women after completion of the vaccine series and report all infants who are infected with hepatitis B.
- If you also care for pregnant women, verify whether they are infected with hepatitis B virus, and report all patients who are infected.

Resources & Training

You can order immunization materials and resources on the IMRS page, found [here](#). Materials range from patient reminder postcards to HPV posters and reminders. Beginning in 2016, the Alaska Immunization Program stopped offering the immunization record “yellow cards” for children and “green cards” for adults. Due to the prevalence of VacTrAK, the immunization record cards are no longer required.

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