



Alaska Immunization Program

Welcome New Staff

Welcome to Nicole Lucas, who is the new VacTrAK Manager for the Alaska Immunization Program. Nicole brings a wealth of healthcare and leadership experience and is excited to join the team.

Vaccine Depot Closure

The Vaccine Depot located in Anchorage will close by the end of October and inventory management staff will relocate with new phone numbers. The 907-341-2202 Vaccine Depot phone number will no longer be in service after Oct 31st. For inventory management questions, please call the Alaska Immunization Program helpline at 907-269-8088 or 888-430-4321 and ask to speak to inventory management staff (previously known as the Depot staff). The vaccinedepot@alaska.gov email address will still be available for questions about inventory management, orders and returns.

Flu Season

Flu season is here. View the [2018-19 Influenza Epi Bulletin](#) for updated guidelines and recommendations. Below are the state-supplied influenza vaccines.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine

- Sanofi Fluzone pre-filled syringe, 0.25mL, quadrivalent, 6- 35 months

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Immunization Helpline FAQ

Can I give HPV9 to someone over age 26?

Recently, the FDA expanded the use of

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

Adult Influenza Vaccine

- Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vial, 5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+
- GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, quadrivalent, 6 months+ *
- Sanofi Fluzone High-Dose pre-filled syringe, 0.5mL, trivalent, 65 years+

* Notice the change in age. Fluarix is now approved for use in persons aged 6 months+

Influenza Honors

Congratulations to the following honorees with influenza vaccination mandates! You can apply to be on the [Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll](#) list with the Immunization Action Coalition by sharing about your facility influenza vaccination mandate.

- Alaska VA Healthcare System, Anchorage
- Banner Health, Fairbanks
- Bartlett Regional Hospital, Juneau
- Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Dillingham
- Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), Juneau

AVAP

The AVAP Council had it's annual meeting in September. The assessment rate for 2019 was set at a child rate of \$7.44 and an adult rate of \$0.53. For general information about AVAP, please visit www.akvaccine.org.

New Vaccines for Children Website

The Alaska Immunization Program has launched some new webpages specifically designed for the [VFC](#) program. The

HPV9 up to age 45. The Alaska Immunization Program is not making any changes to eligibility at this time. Prior to any change in policy surrounding HPV9, the ACIP and the AVAP Council must approve any schedule updates. Providers are NOT currently allowed to administer state-supplied HPV9 to ages 27--45.

[Providers'](#) page contains information about up-to-date requirements. Bookmark this now to help you stay in compliance. (Bonus! This page also provides links to other resources such as opportunities for continuing education.) A [Parents'](#) page contains information to help those with children understand the program and provides helpful links to assist in managing their child's care.

Are your calibration certificates expiring?

Providers are responsible for maintaining a current calibration on all required temperature monitoring devices. If you are utilizing a state supplied LogTag, the calibration certificate may be expiring soon.

As the Alaska Immunization Program no longer provides monitoring devices, you may replace or re-calibrate any devices that meet [Temperature Monitoring Device Requirements](#). And remember to keep your calibration certificates on hand and available if requested by program staff.

Shingrix Delays

There are currently ordering limits and intermittent shipping delays for GlaxoSmithKline's Shingrix vaccine due to high demand. Your order may be reduced and/or your order may be placed on backorder status if there are not enough doses available at that time. The manufacturer anticipates that the limited supply and shipping delays may continue through the end of 2018. Until demand can be met, it is particularly important that vaccine providers educate patients about the importance of completing the series. In addition, CDC reminds health care professionals of proven strategies to help patients receive all their needed vaccinations on time, including Shingrix:

- Implement a vaccine reminder and recall system using phone, e-mail, or text messages to contact patients when you have Shingrix supply. Give first consideration to patients due for their second dose of Shingrix (<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/vaccination-programs-client-reminder-and-recall-systems>).
- If you are out of Shingrix and a patient needs a second dose, refer the patient to another provider in the community (e.g., a pharmacy) that has Shingrix so the patient can complete the series. <https://vaccinefinder.org>

Timely series completion is key to the success of any vaccination program and critical to ensuring patients receive the full benefit of their vaccinations.

Do NOT Charge for Vaccines

Providers are not permitted to bill for vaccines supplied through the state. Incorrect billing practices are one example of fraud or abuse that is subject to investigation. To ensure inappropriate billing for vaccines and administration fees is not happening, providers should monitor their billing practices on a regular basis. Information regarding billing can be found on the [children](#) and [adult](#) eligibility charts located on our website.

HPV9 Syringes

Beginning September 1st, the Alaska Immunization Program now offers Gardasil9 syringes (NDC 00006-4121-02) instead of vials. Please take into consideration your refrigerator storage space when placing future orders in VacTrAK to account for the larger box size.

Td Vaccine by Grifols

The Alaska Immunization Program will offer Td Vaccine by Grifols for all pediatric and adult patients eligible for state-supplied vaccine instead of the previously-offered Tenivac by Sanofi Pasteur. Beginning October 4th, the Td Vaccine vial is displayed in your order set(s) in VacTrAK and Tenivac will not be available to order. Review the [package insert](#).

Hep B Cards

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program developed perinatal hepatitis B health clips as a reminder and guide for healthcare personnel. The reminders include how to identify HBsAg-positive pregnant women and infants born to HBsAg-positive women, to ensure infants receive timely post-exposure prophylaxis and finish the hepatitis B vaccine series, and to ensure that infants get the Post Vaccination Serology Testing (PVST) when appropriate. Please contact the [Helpline](#) for copies.

Hale Borealis

The Hale Borealis Forum is October 23-25, 2018. This year's conference will explore the latest trends in medical response to terrorist or natural disasters and review developments in public health and infectious disease event. Learn more at the [event website](#).

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