



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

The Alaska Immunization Program is doing our part to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by teleworking. All hotlines will be checked periodically for messages. The best way to receive assistance is to contact us by email.

- General questions, IQIP, Perinatal Hep B program, AVAP and training: immune@alaska.gov
- VFC Program: vfc@alaska.gov
- Vaccine distribution and inventory management: vaccinedepot@alaska.gov
- VacTrAK : vactrak@alaska.gov
- Self ImmAGE: selfimmune@alaska.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Dose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that people whose immune systems are moderately to severely compromised receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to complete the vaccination series. The CDC's recommendation includes people with a [range of conditions](#), such as recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advance or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people who are taking some medications that weaken the immune system, and others. Vaccine providers should administer vaccine in accordance with the updated [EUA](#) per the [COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement](#).

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Back To School

Learn more about [returning to school](#) safely this fall. It's important to make sure kids are up to date on their regular immunizations as well as the COVID-19 vaccine if they are eligible. A recent [national poll](#) of parents shows that pediatricians are the most trusted voice recommending COVID vaccine to students.

VFC Requirements Webpage Update

With the VFC requirements webpage still unavailable, on August 16th the VFC vaccine coordinators and back up coordinators on record at that time were emailed a current copy of requirements information. If your staff did not receive a copy (sent from Office-ANC-HSS-DPH EPI Immune, immune@alaska.gov), we ask that SPAM/junk folders be checked and if still not found, confirm contact information in VacTrAK is correct.

Please note that when the VFC website is once again available, provider staff will need to regularly refer to it to ensure you always have current information and remain compliant with requirements.

VFC Non-Compliance: Common Noncompliance Issues

VFC staff continually monitor noncompliance with requirements through various quality assurance activities. Below is a list of the most common noncompliance issues found repeatedly from one year to the next.

- Not appropriately reporting coordinator/back up coordinator staffing changes to the Immunization Program
- Not correctly identifying and determining vaccine eligibility status
- Missing VIS publication date documentation
- Incomplete temperature monitoring documentation
- Not maintaining calibration for DDLs (includes back up thermometers)
- Not maintaining current vaccine emergency plans

Noncompliance (not just for those requirements listed above) may lead to any of the following: vaccine order approval delays, unenrollment from the VFC program, or a referral for Medicaid fraud and abuse investigation. We'd like to remind providers that requirements can be found in the VFC requirements manual. Still have questions or need assistance? Contact the VFC team at 269-8088 or vfc@alaska.gov.



Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

How can my facility get forms/information needed from the Immunization Program while the website is down?

~RE

Dear RE,

The best way to obtain forms/information that were readily available on our website is to email us at immune@alaska.gov with your request.

Dear Izzy,

Are the ECHOs still being held?

~JC

Dear JC,

There are several ECHOs are still available providing information to those that are interested.

Influenza Update

Influenza season 2021-22 is here! Influenza vaccine orders are not available at this time. We will send an update via email when ordering is available.

The Alaska Immunization Program is waiving eligibility limitations again for adults for INFLUENZA vaccine for the 2021-22 season. For influenza vaccine, all adults and all pediatric patients are eligible regardless of insurance status.

Eligibility MUST still be tracked for dose-level accountability. Adult patients who meet an “Ineligible” category (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid, VA, insurance that doesn’t cover vaccines) must be marked with “Ineligible” eligibility but then can receive the state-supplied influenza “Public” funded vaccine.

State-supplied INFLUENZA vaccines for 2021-22 season:

Age	Manufacturer	Brand	Description
6-35 mos.	Seqirus	Afluria	Quad 0.25mL single dose syringe, 10 pk
6 mos. +GSK		Fluarix	Quad 0.5mL single dose syringe, 10 pk
6 mos. +Sanofi		Fluzone	Quad 5.0mL multi-dose vial, 10-dose pk
2-49 yrs	AstraZeneca	FluMist	Quad 0.2mL single dose sprayer, 10 pk
2 yrs +	Seqirus	Flucelvax	Quad 0.5mL single dose syringe, 10 pk
65 yrs +	Sanofi	Fluzone HD	Quad 0.7mL single dose syringe, 10 pk
65 yrs+	Seqirus	Fluad	Quad 0.5mL single dose syringe, 10 pk

Providers may consider privately purchasing some of their own influenza vaccine if they are interested in a product not offered by the state.

Register to Display Flu Vaccine on Vaccines.gov

Vaccines.gov will soon show Influenza vaccine availability for active public facing healthcare clinics. In order for clinics to show flu availability on vaccines.gov, they will



School Health ECHO

Every Monday, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm AKST

To join [register for School Health ECHO](#).

[Submit a question or case presentation for School Health ECHO](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine ECHO for Providers

Every Tuesday from 2-3pm (AKST)

To join [register for COVID-19 vaccine ECHO for providers](#)

Alaska Medical Provider ECHO

3rd Tuesday each month (beginning in September), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm AKST

To join [register for Alaska COVID-19 ECHO for Medical Providers](#).

[Submit a question or case presentation for Alaska COVID-19](#)

Healthcare Specific Situational Awareness ECHO

Thursdays, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm AKST

To join [register for Healthcare Specific Situational Awareness ECHO](#)

need to be enrolled in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program and complete onboarding with COVID Locating Health (VaccineFinder/Vaccines.gov log in site).

[Email ECHO coordinator with questions](#)

*Note: Clinic's do not need to provide COVID-19 vaccines in order to show flu availability. When enrolling please let us know that you would only like to show flu vaccine availability on vaccines.gov.

- Once you have an approved provider agreement you will receive an email from vaccinefinder@auth.castlighthealth.com (to the e-mail that was provided in Section A of the COVID-19 Provider Agreement) that will give you access to the onboarding process. * If you are unable to find the e-mail in your inbox or junk folder, please contact CARS_HelpDesk@cdc.gov to have it resent.
- Once onboarding has been completed, providers will be able to update public display details, update "in stock" status for vaccines, and upload flu vaccine inventory.

Clinics/Providers will be responsible for uploading flu vaccine inventory to COVID Locating Health (VaccineFinder/Vaccines.gov log in site). The State of Alaska will continue to upload COVID-19 Vaccine inventory. Guides available at <https://vaccinefinder.org/covid-provider-resources>.

For additional help or more information please contact covid19vaccine@alaska.gov

VAC TRAK

Utilize VacTrAK for the 2021-22 Influenza Season

To ensure a successful influenza vaccination season within VacTrAK there are many reports and tools that can assist in reaching the goal of greater coverage for this 2021-22 season.

Guarantee your stock levels can meet demand. Use last year as a guide.

- Inventory Transaction Report will provide a history of public vaccine orders from previous season.
 - Select all influenza vaccines, public funding, and date range of 8/1/2020 to 6/30/2021
- Vaccine Administered Report will provide last season's reported administration (public only, private only or both public and private)
 - Select all influenza vaccines, funding choice, and date range of 8/1/2020 to 6/30/2021
- Be proactive and reach out to patients through Reminder Recall activities

- Assess progress throughout the season with the Coverage Rate Report (Child Coverage Rate / Adolescent Coverage Rate).

It is more important than ever to ensure a safe and healthy community. If you have any questions in regard to these reports or others, contact the VacTrAK helpdesk at (907) 269-0312 or vactrak@alaska.gov.

VacTrAK and PrepMod 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.

IQIP

The Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) process is part of the VFC program and the purpose is to promote and support immunization quality improvement activities at the provider level to increase protection against vaccine-preventable diseases in adherence to the ACIP guidelines. Providers will be contacted directly to schedule IQIP visits. For more information please call the Immunization Program 907-269-8088 or immune@alaska.gov.

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) reminders:

Hepatitis B virus is highly infectious and can survive outside the body at least 7 days. Help prevent perinatal transmission of the hepatitis B virus by providing HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine prophylaxis. Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers will need post-vaccination serology testing after completion of the hepatitis B vaccine series. PVST results can be faxed to the PHBPP Nurse Consultant at: 907-562-7802. If you do not have the Prenatal Report Form or the Hospital Report form to fax in information on pregnant women and HBsAg positive labs. Please contact 907-269-8088 or immune@alaska.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine related MMWRs

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years — United States, December 14, 2020–July 31, 2021](#)
- [New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York, May 3–July 25, 2021](#)
- [Sustained Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines Against COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations Among Adults — United States, March–July 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents Before and During Widespread Circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant — National Healthcare Safety Network, March 1–August 1, 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Frontline Workers Before and During B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant Predominance — Eight U.S. Locations, December 2020–August 2021](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Hospitalizations Among Persons Aged ≥16 Years, by Vaccination Status — Los Angeles County, California, May 1–July 25, 2021](#)
- [Use of Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Remote Communities — Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, September 15, 2020–March 1, 2021](#)
- [New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York, May 3–July 25, 2021](#)
- [Sustained Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines Against COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations Among Adults — United States, March–July 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents Before and During Widespread Circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant — National Healthcare Safety Network, March 1–August 1, 2021](#)
- [Alternative Methods for Grouping Race and Ethnicity to Monitor COVID-19 Outcomes and Vaccination Coverage](#)
- [Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing Hospitalization Among Adults Aged ≥65 Years — COVID-NET, 13 States, February–April 2021](#)
- [Use of COVID-19 Vaccines After Reports of Adverse Events Among Adult Recipients of Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\) and mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines \(Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna\): Update from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, July 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years — United States, December 14, 2020–July 16, 2021](#)

- [Changes in Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2020–2021](#)

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