



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

The Alaska Immunization Program is working a hybrid work schedule, a combination of working in the office and teleworking. The best and fastest way to receive assistance is to contact us by email.

- General questions, IQIP, Perinatal Hep B program, and AVAP: 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
- PrepMod: prepmod@alaska.gov
- COVID-19 Vaccine questions: covid19vaccine@alaska.gov

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Immunization Champion Award

This year the Association of Immunization Managers is hosting the Immunization Champion Award, an award program previously hosted by the CDC. You probably know someone who has done remarkable work in either flu, HPV, or COVID-19 across the lifespan or routine childhood vaccination. Please nominate them! Nominations will close on **Monday, June 27, 2022**. Healthcare professionals, community leaders, or even parents are all eligible for nomination. For a nomination form and requirements, use the [toolkit](#) to submit nominees to immune@alaska.gov.

Cyberattack

The Department of Health and Social Services is still working to get our website up-to-date due to the [cyberattack](#). If you find a form on [our website](#) and are wondering if it is the latest



Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

edition, please email immune@alaska.gov and ask. We will be happy to supply the latest edition of the form to you.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

COVID-19 vaccine [boosters](#) are recommended for everyone age 5 and older 5 months after their mRNA primary series. For children younger than 5, the FDA VRBPAC meets on June 8, 20, and 21 to evaluate data submitted by Moderna and Pfizer. Vaccine will be available following approvals by the FDA, ACIP, and CDC, possibly as early as June 13 for the Moderna vaccine and as early as June 27 for the Pfizer vaccine.



VacTrAK Updates

- Please update phone numbers and emails as patients come to visit you! VacTrAK and consumer access applications (more information coming soon) use phone numbers as a matching criterion. Having the most up-to-date phone number in the IIS improves matching and merges.
- Make sure you are reporting your administered vaccinations! It is good practice to verify that your EHR and VacTrAK match. Use the report module within VacTrAK to make sure that all of your records are being submitted. Reports that can be useful in this are the Patient Detail Report, Vaccine Administered Report, and Vaccination Totals Report.

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.

Vaccine Formulary

Sanofi Pasteur believes one case of meningitis is one too many. That is why they created their latest innovation in MenACWY protection1, MenQuadfi®, Meningococcal (Groups A, C, Y, W) Conjugate Vaccine, licensed in April 2020 and distributed since March of 2021.

Beginning in the middle of 2022, Sanofi will be transitioning from Menactra to MenQuadfi as their sole meningococcal A, C, Y, W conjugate vaccine. Sanofi has developed a [provider communication](#) about the planned transition in response to questions from their customers.

Is there somewhere I can look for answers to my vaccine questions when I'm unable to get an Immunization nurse on the phone right away?

~TS

Dear TS,

[Ask the Experts](#) is a recurring feature of *IAC Express* and www.immunize.org in which IAC experts answer challenging and timely questions about vaccines and their administration. More than 1,000 Q&As are available online at www.immunize.org/askexperts.

IAC Express Currently emailed free of charge to more than 50,000 opt-in subscribers every Wednesday, *IAC Express* provides up-to-date information about new CDC vaccine recommendations, FDA vaccine approvals, newly released Vaccine Information Statements, new immunization resources and current events, and journal articles. Frontline healthcare professionals, as well as local and state health departments, rely on *IAC Express* for the critical information they need in their day-to-day work. The current issue as well as the more than 1,440 issues published since *IAC Express*' inception in 1997 are available online at www.immunize.org/express.

Dear Izzy,

What do you mean by providers on the provider ECHO?

~MB

Dear MB,

On our Vaccine provider ECHO the term provider is referring to enrolled and licensed clinicians as well as staff who stores and handles vaccines, orders and bills for vaccines or screens for patient eligibility. This is the terminology used by the CDC vaccination program. Thank you all for providing vaccines for Alaskans and know that we respect and value all of your expertise.

We have not finalized the timing of the transition for these two vaccines. The exact timing will also be determined by usage over the coming months and inventory on hand in the CDC depots so that we can minimize vaccine wastage.

We will provide additional information for your planning as we approach the transition.

Flu Season 22-23

Flu vaccines are going to be universal again this coming flu season. The 2022-2023 influenza vaccine formulary will be very similar to the 2021-2022 formulary. The Immunization Program will release the new flu formulary and allow for providers to start ordering 22-23 flu vaccine in late August or September 2022. The state does not start receiving the following years flu vaccine until early fall. Once we do, we will put out an email blast informing all health care professionals that the flu vaccines are now available to order.

The [flu dashboard](#) is available to share flu vaccination coverage in Alaska.



Hepatitis Awareness Month

The month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States, and May 19th is Hepatitis Testing Day. During May, CDC and our public health partners work to shed light on the impact of these hidden epidemics by raising awareness of viral hepatitis while encouraging testing and vaccination. Hepatitis Awareness Month activities help to improve everyone's understanding of viral hepatitis transmission and risk factors and to decrease social stigma against viral hepatitis.

IQIP Update

Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) is a process shared with Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers to improve immunization services. Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers participate in a program to offer vaccines at no cost to children, to help ensure children have a better chance of getting recommended vaccinations and that means healthier children. It is widely known that vaccine-preventable diseases are significantly reduced by use of vaccinations. Yes, vaccinations are the greatest achievements of modern medicine! Now is not the time to be complacent about the importance of ACIP-recommended vaccinations, especially with the anti-vaccination Infodemic. Please do not hesitate to present proper vaccine information to your patients. Communication strategies have been shared to assist in addressing the concerns. One strategy is ASK: Acknowledge concerns, Steer (correct misunderstandings, etc.), Know

facts (be confident/prepared). The common theme in effective communication is engaging with empathy.

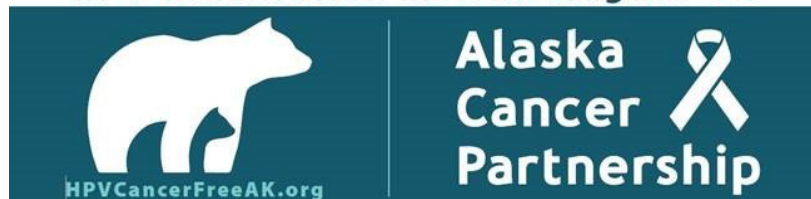
Helpful resources

AAP Pediatrics on Call has a podcast on vaccine hesitancy: aap.org

Immunization Action Coalition: immunize.org

For more information email the Immunization Program Nurse Consultant at immune@alaska.gov.

HPV Vaccination Month: August '22



Alaska Cancer Partnership: HPV Vaccination Webinars

The Alaska Cancer Partnership is sharing two webinars in June to kick-off their HPV Vaccination Month in August.

June 9 - [Addressing Ant-Vaccination Aggression](#)

While many were surprised by the pushback around the COVID-19 vaccine, the protests came as no surprise to anyone who has advocated for the HPV vaccine. Anti-vaccine aggression has increased in recent years, spilling over into public forums both online and in-person. In this session, Erica DeWald of Vaccinate Your Family will walk through ways both individuals and organizations can prepare for, and respond to, negativity and harassment.

June 16 - [Current State of HPV](#)

Get up to date information on the current state of HPV Vaccination in the US and Alaska from Dr. Debbie Saslow at the American Cancer Society. Learn about the reasoning behind the push for vaccinating at age 9-10, and the impact the HPV vaccination has had on cervical cancer rates since its start in 2006. Dr. Chelsea Banks from Alaska Center for Pediatrics will also discuss insight into best practices for vaccine recommendation and how to overcome barriers to reach your population.

Their 3rd annual HPV Vaccination campaign has updated their website at www.HPVCancerFreeAK.org. Visit this website for more information, provider toolkits, and resources for both providers and parents.

Website for Healthcare Professionals

Launched in 1994, one of the earliest websites devoted to immunization, www.immunize.org is the premier non-profit web-based resource for practical, user-friendly immunization information available today, serving more than 25,000 visitors per day. The website houses IAC's collection of more than 250 healthcare professional immunization education materials and patient handouts, some in several

languages. These materials are available free of charge, and users are encouraged to download them, make copies, and distribute them. This website also makes available all Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) published in the United States in more than 30 languages. Users download more than 8 million ready-to-copy (PDF) documents from the website annually. IAC makes daily additions and updates to the content of www.immunize.org.

Immunization Related Newsletters

CDC Immunization-related Newsletters

- [Immunization Works!](#)
- [CDC FoundationExternal](#) [The FrontLine](#)

Partner Newsletters

- [IAC Express newsletterExternal](#) [Immunization Action Coalition \(IAC\)](#)
- [NeedleTips newsletterExternal](#) [Immunization Action Coalition \(IAC\)](#)
- [Vaccinate Adults! newsletterExternal](#) [Immunization Action Coalition \(IAC\)](#)
- [Vaccine Education Center Parents PACK NewsletterExternal](#) [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)
- [WHO Global Immunizations NewsletterExternal](#) [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

Also, consult your [state immunization website](#).

MMWRs

- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2022](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Confidence by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity — United States, August 29–October 30, 2021](#)
- [Use of Ebola Vaccine: Expansion of Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices To Include Two Additional Populations — United States, 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Readiness for Use of Type 2 Novel Oral Poliovirus Vaccine in Response to a Type 2 Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Outbreak — Tajikistan, 2020–2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Congenital Varicella Syndrome Case — Illinois, 2021](#)

- [Interim Estimates of 2021–22 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness — United States, February 2022](#)
- [Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [Surveillance to Track Progress Toward Polio Eradication — Worldwide, 2020–2021](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2020–21 School Year](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Response to Measles Among Persons Evacuated from Afghanistan — Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, August–October 2021](#)
- [Public Health Actions to Control Measles Among Afghan Evacuees During Operation Allies Welcome — United States, September–November 2021](#)
- [Use of a Modified Preexposure Prophylaxis Vaccination Schedule to Prevent Human Rabies: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [Progress Toward Polio Eradication — Worldwide, January 2020–April 2022](#)

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