



Alaska Immunization Program

Update from the Program Manager

Happy New Year! The 2023 Immunization Schedules were released on February 9, and the MMWRs detailing the schedule for [children](#), [adolescents](#), and [adults](#) are available online. The updates to the 2023 Immunization Schedules reflect the schedule changes voted on and approved during the [ACIP meeting that occurred in October 2022](#). The most cross-cutting change is the inclusion of the primary series and other details of authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines for both children and adults. Additional changes or additions to the schedules include:

- New or updated recommendations for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines,
- Addition of a new vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and a new vaccine for Hepatitis B.
- Addition of guidance describing recommendations for situations requiring additional doses of the MMR vaccine during a mumps outbreak.
- Addition of guidance describing the use of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in people 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk for exposure to polioviruses.
- Addition of guidance describing that serologic evidence of prior varicella is not necessary for zoster vaccination as well as guidance on what to do in the event serologic evidence of varicella susceptibility becomes available.

The schedules are available on the [healthcare provider webpage](#) and a [parent friendly schedule](#) is also online.

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Ask Izzy

Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program Required Training – Deadline 2/28/23

For those of you who have successfully completed *VFC Provider Staff Training 2023*: You are now compliant with CDC's yearly training requirement. Thank you.

For vaccine coordinators and back up coordinators who have not yet completed the training: Emails with instructions to complete the training were sent to you on January 5 and February 6, 2023. We recommend checking SPAM folders if you think you haven't received these emails. If still not found, it is likely due to outdated contact information (e.g., changes to vaccine/back up coordinator roles, staff names or email addresses.) To update information, use the [VacTrAK Add/Modify User Form](#); please note that the forms must be completed accurately and that it may take a few days for the information to be updated. Thank you.

Any questions or issues, please contact immune@alaska.gov.



AVAP Due Dates

AVAP training and opt-in is open now for vaccine providers. Opt-in for coverage of uninsured adults is optional.

Training – March 15, 2023

Uninsured Adult Opt-in – March 15, 2023

AVAP Only Provider Agreement – March 31, 2023

Contact immune@alaska.gov for any questions.

Docket - Digital Immunization Records App

Download Docket from the [App or Google Play Store](#) for easy access to electronic immunization records.



Dear Izzy,

I am not getting an email from the VFC Provider Staff Training 2023 site when setting my password? How can I get the email to set my password to access the course?

~HM

Dear HM,

There are a few things that could be why you are not get the "set password" email for the training.

1. Are you enrolled into the training. All VFC vaccine coordinators and back-up vaccine coordinators in VacTrAK were enrolled.
2. Reset the password correctly:
 - Click on set/reset password button
 - Enter in your username in the employee number and click search.
 - You should receive an automatic email with instructions to set your password.
3. If you still don't receive the email, please check spam and junk folders. (from noreply@hsstraining.alaska.gov)

Docket is a secure tool that requires verification of a phone number or email address listed in VacTrAK. You can assist patients with viewing their own and their children's records in Docket by checking that VacTrAK reflects correct primary phone and email address.

Please reach out to hss.dph.epi.docket@alaska.gov with requests for promotional materials and for any questions or concerns. Support materials including a video about Docket are also available at vaccinationrecords.alaska.gov.



VacTrAK Reminder

Reminder: On June 9th, 2020; VacTrAK implemented the v.5.29.2 update. This Update enabled the recommended Meningococcal B Forecasting at age 16. VacTrAK will forecast for the first dose of Meningococcal B and a "Clinical Discretion" message will be displayed:

Vaccination Forecast					
The forecast automatically switches to the catch-up schedule when a patient is behind schedule.					
Vaccine Group	Forecasted Date	Recommended Date	Minimum Valid Date	Overdue Date	Status
MENINGOCOCCAL B, ONLY (Clinical Discretion)	1	05/25/2020	05/25/2014	05/24/2020	Due Now

VacTrAK Data Security

Help us keep Vaccine Data secure. The [Request to Add or Modify VacTrAK Users form](#) must be submitted when there are

4. Ensure that your enrollment email from VacTrAK is still current

Please contact immune@alaska.gov for any questions or issues.

Dear Izzy,

During the Vaccine ECHO, it was mentioned that the CDC updated the childhood immunization schedule. When I click on the CDC link, it shows last year's schedule. How can I view the updated version of the childhood schedule?

~PM

Dear PM,

To view the updated [CDC childhood immunization schedule](#) make sure to clear the cache for your browser and try again. For any questions contact immune@alaska.gov.

changes to vaccine staff. Any user accounts not accessed for over 90 days will be deactivated.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- Novavax is back in limited supply – Doses will expire on April 30, 2023.
- The ending of the PHE does not impact FDA's ability to authorize vaccines for emergency use. Existing emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for products will remain in effect and the agency may issue new EUAs going forward when criteria for issuance are met.
- All COVID-19 providers ending their COVID-19 distribution efforts need to report wastage and zero out their inventory before final unenrollment.
 - For more information:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/wastage-operational-summary.html>
 - If you need assistance with inventory reconciliation, please contact: vaccinedepot@alaska.gov

Vaccine Order Processing Schedule

Routine vaccine orders are processed weekly to optimize shipping delivery timelines and avoid out of temperature deliveries. Only COVID-19 vaccines are eligible for rush delivery. Orders from the distribution order set should be delivered within one to two weeks following VacTrAK submission. Occasionally, inclement weather and supply issues at distribution centers may cause unexpected delays. Please note, we are scaling back depot fulfillment for all products except mpox vaccine. For faster processing please place distribution orders.

Order Processing Schedule:

- COVID vaccine orders are uploaded daily
- Routine Vaccine orders are due by Wednesday 4:30 pm
- Varicella orders are due by Thursday 4:30 pm

PPSV23 Wastage

If you are interested in offering PPSV23 (Pneumovax 23®) please order lean. Smaller more frequent orders of this vaccine will help your organization stay supplied and reduce inventory loss. A recent analysis of usage numbers indicated that 62.2% of total PPSV23 doses ordered from July 2021 through June 2022 were wasted.

DT Vaccine Discontinued by Sanofi

The production of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids absorbed vaccine (DT) has been discontinued by Sanofi. Discussions are underway regarding updated vaccine recommendations for infants and children who should not receive acellular pertussis-containing vaccines.

Perinatal Hepatitis B

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) focuses on preventing the spread of hepatitis B virus from infected mothers to newborns. Preventing the spread of hepatitis B virus requires that we collaborate to screen, test, educate, and provide prophylaxis interventions (STEPPI). Please educate/share information with parents, the importance of hepatitis B vaccine series completion and the post-vaccination serology testing for the infant born to the mother with a positive HBsAg lab. Share the information at each well-child visit.

Helpful Resources

- [Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Report Form](#)
- CDC Viral Hepatitis information Perinatal Transmission: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

For more information contact the Immunization Program Nurse Consultant at 907-269-8088 or email immune@alaska.gov.

IQIP

IQIP is CDC's national, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider-level immunization quality improvement (QI) program. IQIP serves to assist and support health care providers by identifying opportunities to improve vaccine uptake and to help providers be:

- Motivated to try new vaccination service delivery strategies and incorporate changes into their current practices
- Supported in sustaining changes and improvement to their vaccination service delivery
- Aware of and knowledgeable about vaccination coverage and missed opportunities to vaccinate
- Able to use available data from the IIS to improve services and coverage

For more information contact the Immunization Program Nurse Consultant at 907-269-8088 or email immune@alaska.gov.

2023-2024 Influenza Update

We will be offering the following selection of influenza vaccines in the coming year, with coverage for ages 6 months and beyond.

- Fluzone High Dose
- Fluzone
- Fluarix
- Flumist
- Afluria
- Flucelvax
- Fluad

Resources & 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.

- [Zoom session](#)
- **Meeting ID:** 954 1333 5230
- **Passcode:** Email helpdesk at vactrak@alaska.gov

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.

MMWRs

- [Early and Increased Influenza Activity Among Children — Tennessee, 2022–23 Influenza Season](#)

- [Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2021–22 School Year](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months Among Children Born During 2018–2019 — National Immunization Survey–Child, United States, 2019–2021](#)
- [Progress Toward Measles and Rubella Elimination — India, 2005–2021](#)
- [Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Coinfection and Clinical Characteristics Among Children and Adolescents Aged <18 Years Who Were Hospitalized or Died with Influenza — United States, 2021–22 Influenza Season](#)
- [Progress Toward Regional Measles Elimination — Worldwide, 2000–2021](#)
- [Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine \(PRIORIX\): Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [Routine Vaccination Coverage — Worldwide, 2021](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2023](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2023](#)

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