

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 1: JANUARY 2024



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CONTACT CDPH VFC

VFC Forms, Policies, Program Updates
www.chicagohan.org/vfc

COVID-19 Vaccine Information
www.chicagohan.org/covid-19-vaccine

General VFC Inbox
ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org

SUPPORTING NEWLY ARRIVED INDIVIDUALS IN CHICAGO

All children deserve access to prompt, high quality healthcare. As such, the Chicago Department of Public Health is committed to working to ensure migrant children and their families are safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. We appreciate your partnership in this work and want to ensure you are aware of current trends we are seeing in the city and among newly arrived populations.

Varicella

High levels of varicella (chickenpox) have been detected in Chicago, particularly among newly arrived individuals living in congregate settings. Please review and consider the [CDC's recommendations for varicella vaccination during an outbreak](#):

- Children ages 1–4 years who are part of Chicago's new arrival population—especially those residing in a congregate setting—should receive a second “early” varicella vaccine dose, provided a minimum interval of 3 months has elapsed after the first dose.
- For children ages 4 –12 years who have no history of varicella immunity, the minimum interval between doses is also 3 months.
- For people 13 years and older with no history of varicella immunity, the minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.

Please continue to ensure that all your patients are up to date on their varicella vaccinations by following the [routine guidance](#):

- First dose administered at age 12 through 15 months
- Second dose administered at age 4 through 6 years
- Catch up: First dose at minimum age of 12 months, 3 month minimum interval for those less than 13 years, 4 week minimum interval if age 13 years and older.

Reporting and Infection Control

Both clinically and laboratory-diagnosed cases of varicella should be reported to CDPH within 24 hours. If you have access to I-NEDSS (Illinois Notifiable Electronic Disease Surveillance System), please report via that electronic system. For all others, use the [Online Case Reporting Form](#) (preferred) or contact the CDPH Disease Reporting Hotline at 312-743-9000.

SUPPORTING NEWLY ARRIVED INDIVIDUALS IN CHICAGO, CONTINUED

Routine Immunizations

Please ensure all of your current and new patients are up-to-date with all routine immunizations or there is a plan in place to get them up-to-date. For individuals who have recently arrived in Chicago and are from outside of the United States, it is important to review overseas vaccination records for dates of administration, intervals between doses, and the age at the time of vaccination(s). Documented vaccinations administered comparably to ACIP recommendations can be accepted as valid. Verbal reports of vaccination should not be counted as valid. Any non-documented vaccines should be administered according to the ACIP schedule and the need for re-vaccination should be determined using shared clinical decision making.

Resources:

- **CDC's page on [immigrant and refugee health](#)**
- **Recent HANs on [varicella](#) and [provider information on new arrivals](#)**
- **[AAP Immigrant Child Health resource page](#)**

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! - VFC SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please complete [this survey](#) so we can learn more about the experiences of Chicago vaccinators and how to support you in the upcoming year!



RSV UPDATES

Abrysvo: Abrysvo is a RSV vaccine that has been approved for use in pregnant people between 32 to 36 weeks gestation. Abrysvo is available in single-dose orders through the VFC program for pregnant persons ages 18 and younger. Providers should only place orders when they have a patient who needs the vaccine and is ready to be vaccinated. Please do not request more doses than you plan to use during the order period. VFC vaccines should not be used for adults greater than 18 years of age.

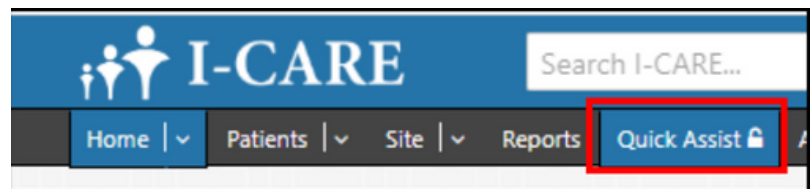
Nirsevimab: Sanofi released [additional information](#) regarding nirsevimab shortages, explaining that unprecedented demand and the rapid resolve of anticipated implementation barriers contributed to insufficient supply. An additional 230,000 doses have since been made available and with this additional supply, the [CDC](#) urges providers to return to the [original administration recommendations](#). Nirsevimab is recommended for infants aged <8 months and to infants and children aged 8–19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease.

- 50 mg doses are for use in those weighing <5kg
- 100 mg doses are for use in those weighing ≥5 kg.

Both doses are available to order through VFC; if you are interested in ordering, please email ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org or place a request in another vaccine order.

I-CARE UPDATES

As of 12/8/23, there is a [new website](#) for I-CARE enrollment! The new site will result in reduced turnaround times, as



requests are now automated and documents will be electronically routed. Users will also be able to:

- Add new organizations and modify existing ones
- Add and update PRAs (Portal Registration Authority)
- Request access for new individual I-CARE users

Quick Assist is another I-CARE enhancement intended to streamline the process for submitting vaccine requests. Learn more about using this new feature [here](#).

MEET NEW CDPH STAFF



Alexander Sloboda, MD, MPH

Dr. Sloboda is the Medical Director of Immunization and Emergency Preparedness Programs at CDPH. Most recently, he was an Emergency Physician and Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Rush University Medical Center and a faculty member for the Health Equity and Social Justice Leadership Program at Rush Medical College. He has also been working in Ghana and Nigeria for over a decade where he has led efforts in developing Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medicine capacity building.



Brian Borah, MD

Dr. Borah is the Medical Director for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Surveillance at CDPH. He completed his internal medicine training at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and later partook in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service. Dr. Borah also serves as a clinical assistant professor at UIC, where he continues to see patients.



URGENT NEED TO INCREASE FLU, COVID-19 AND RSV IMMUNIZATIONS

The [CDC issued a HAN](#) calling for increases in COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccine coverage with the rise in respiratory virus activity. Chicago's 1/5/2024 [respiratory virus surveillance report](#) shows test positivity rates of 10.8%, 14.4%, and 7% for COVID-19, flu, and RSV, respectively. RSV rates appear to have peaked in November, while rates of COVID-19 and flu are still increasing. Please continue to give strong vaccine recommendations, use motivational interviewing, and spend time counseling on the importance of these vaccines.

2024 EVENTS - WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN!

More details coming soon!

- Monthly immunizations webinars with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)
 - Starting February 21, 2024 at 12:00 PM on *Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation*
- Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) bootcamps, learning collaboratives, special sessions, AND a quality improvement project are coming!

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Register at illinoisaap.org/events.

RETURNING THIS YEAR:
In-person annual VFC training - Stay Tuned!

Another TEEEX Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness course. This is a 2-day course that addresses the pediatric emergency planning and medical response considerations that need to be incorporated into disaster plans. This not a clinical management course.

- REGION 7 location
 - February 6 -7, 2024 at the Cook County EOC, 15900 S. Cicero Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Click [here](#) for further details and to register online.
- REGION 9 location
 - February 28 – 29, 2024 at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, 25 N. Winfield Road, Winfield, IL 60190. Register [here](#) or email Samuel.Boyle@nm.org