

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 8: NOVEMBER 2022



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- Meet some of the CDPH VFC Staff!
- What October 2022 ACIP approvals on COVID-19 Vaccines mean
- World Immunization Day is November 10th!
- And more!

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](mailto:ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org)

WHAT RECENT ACIP APPROVALS ON COVID-19 VACCINES MEAN

Adding COVID-19 Vaccines to Immunization Schedules

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend adding COVID-19 vaccines to the 2023 child, adolescent, and adult immunization schedules. What this means:

- This addition acknowledges the ongoing need to vaccinate children, adolescents and adults against COVID-19.
- Adding COVID-19 vaccines to immunization schedules does not result in mandates for school entry and COVID-19 vaccines are not required for school entry in Illinois at this time. Vaccine mandates are determined by states. The vaccines currently required by CPS for school entry are listed [here](#). IDPH requirements are [here](#).

- If something is added to the schedule, it is because the benefits continue to strongly outweigh the risks.

Read more from the American Academy of Pediatric (AAP) [here](#).

Equitable Access for All Children

ACIP voted 15-0 to include COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months to 18 years in the VFC program. COVID-19 vaccines will not be available in the VFC program until they transition from being distributed as part of the government's COVID response to commercial distribution. The timing on that change has not been finalized. Read the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) news brief on COVID-19 vaccines being included in VFC programs [here](#).

REFERRING PROVIDERS TO THE VFC PROGRAM

- Do you know a provider who may be interested in enrolling in the VFC program?
- Did you know that being a VFC provider is a sound investment in a practice that reduces provider up-front costs because they will not have to pay to purchase vaccines for VFC-eligible children?

Read more [here](#) about how the VFC program benefits patients and practices. If someone you know is interested, they can email Victor Santiago (VFC Program Coordinator) [here](#) to enroll!

MEET CDPH VFC STAFF

There are many people who are working with you and behind the scenes on Chicago's VFC program. Here are two key members!



Victor Santiago

Role: VFC Program Coordinator

Time w/ CDPH: 1 year

Favorite part of the job: Continuing to serve children and families after working 15 years in the Head Start program for the City of Chicago



Gira Patel

Role: COVID-19 Vaccine Program Enrollment + Provider Engagement Project Manager

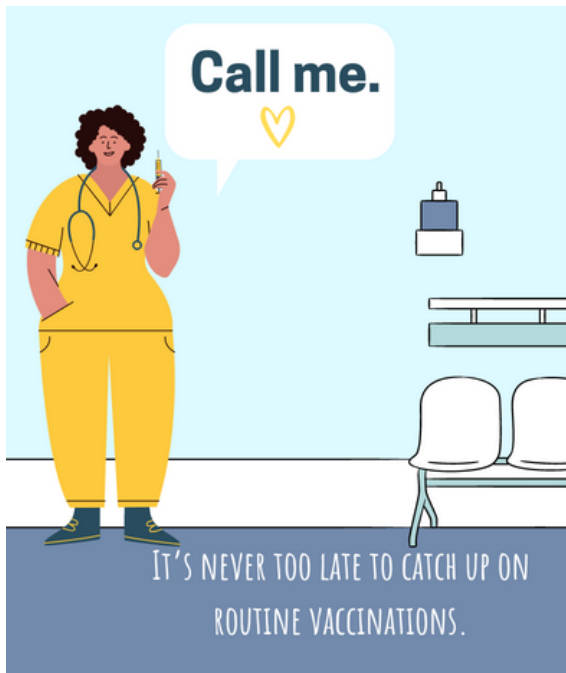
Time w/ CDPH: 2 years

Favorite part of the job: Supporting and connecting with Chicago vaccinators.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION DAY

Celebrated on November 10th every year, World Immunization Day is a great way to spread awareness about the benefits of vaccinations among your patients. Visit [here](#) to find social media images from the Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics ready to use!





CDC REPORTS FIRST PEDIATRIC FLU DEATH OF THE SEASON

Healthcare providers should anticipate a surge in flu and COVID-19 cases due to more time spent indoors, travel, holidays gatherings, and a decline in mitigation measures. Ensure families do not underestimate the impact of flu or COVID-19, as both can have serious, deadly impacts on children. The first pediatric flu death of the season, associated with the influenza A(H3) virus, has already been reported. Flu vaccines can safely be co-administered with COVID-19 and other vaccines. Vaccinators should continue to recommend flu and COVID-19 vaccines at every appointment. Ensure all patients are aware of their COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, including boosters.

ARE RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) VACCINES COMING?

CDC surveillance has shown an increase in Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections and RSV-associated emergency department visits and hospitalizations in many US regions, including Illinois. There is currently no vaccine for RSV, however two manufacturers, GSK and Pfizer, are working to develop RSV vaccines that appear to be highly effective in adults (GSK 82% efficacy rate and Pfizer 86%). An RSV vaccine will not be available for the 2022/2023 season, but it could be available next year. In the meantime, consider implementing some of the recommendations found in a recent HAN Alert. *Watch a webinar hosted 11/7/22 by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics on flu and RSV in IL [here](#).*



REMINDER RECALL

Reach out to patients who are overdue for vaccination.

Use their preferred method of contact. Send reminders through:

- Patient portals
- Text messages
- Phone calls

VACCINES RECENTLY ON THE MARKET

A few new vaccines entered the market in the past few months. Make sure you are up-to-date on the information around these new vaccines:

- MenQuadfi - indicated for active immunization for the prevention of invasive meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups A, C, W, and Y. MenQuadfi is approved for use in individuals 2 years of age and older. Read the FDA package insert [here](#).
- Vaxelis - indicated for active immunization to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and invasive disease due to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Vaxelis is approved for use as a 3-dose series in children from 6 weeks through 4 years of age (prior to the 5th birthday). Read the FDA package insert [here](#).

MODERNA SHELF LIFE EXTENSION

Moderna has announced that the 12 monovalent lot numbers have a shelf life extension of 3 months – if you have these lot number(s) in your freezer, please be sure to update I-CARE and your tracking labels accordingly to notate the new expiration date.

Ct	Lot	OLD Expiry (9-month from DOM)	New Expiry (verified)
1	054A22A	2022-11-01	Feb 1, 2023
2	055A22A	2022-11-02	Feb 2, 2023
3	057A22A	2022-11-06	Feb 6, 2023
4	056A22A	2022-11-07	Feb 7, 2023
5	059A22A	2022-11-09	Feb 9, 2023
6	058A22-2A	2022-11-10	Feb 10, 2023
7	060A22A	2022-11-10	Feb 10, 2023
8	014B22A	2022-11-11	Feb 11, 2023
9	015B22A	2022-11-12	Feb 12, 2023
10	016B22A	2022-11-13	Feb 13, 2023
11	017B22A	2022-11-14	Feb 14, 2023
12	011B22A	2022-11-18	Feb 18, 2023

These shelf life extensions only apply to doses that have been stored appropriately according to CDC guidelines in a freezer. Moving forward, be sure to separate doses that are expired in the event that more shelf life extensions are granted. Use the Moderna expiration tool [here](#) if you have further questions on Moderna product expiration dates.



I-VAC ADVISOR OFFICE HOURS

If you have questions about implementation, administration, logistics or anything related to provider COVID-19 vaccines, you can ask a clinician during I-VAC Advisor Office Hours. These are drop-in hours and you do not need to stay the full hour.

THURSDAY	NOVEMBER 17	12 P.M.	KRISTIN METZLER, RN
TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 22	8 A.M.	DR. EDWARD LINN
WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 30	12 P.M.	KRISTIN METZLER, RN
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 7	8 A.M.	JENNIFER BURNS, APN
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 15	12 P.M.	DR. JONATHON NECHELES
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 20	8 A.M.	DR. NISHA DASANI



Join on Zoom!
Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/ivac-office-hours

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Providers and health care facilities are advised to encourage the following community actions and messages to decrease the overall burden of respiratory illness and, consequently, the need for hospitalization of children:

1. Mask indoors in crowded areas, especially at large gatherings during the upcoming holiday season, to prevent acquiring any infection, such as RSV, flu, or COVID-19.
2. Wear a mask if you develop any symptoms, such as a runny nose, cough, or fever.
3. Cover your cough and sneezes and stay home until you are feeling better or fever free for at least 24 hours without needing fever reducing medications.
4. During holiday parties or communal dining, make sure to frequently wash one's hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoid touching utensils that are frequently handled by others.
5. Whenever possible, maximize indoor ventilation and air circulation.
6. Get vaccinated for the flu and get up to date on the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.
7. If your child 6 months or older qualifies for Synagis for RSV prevention, talk to your provider at the earliest.

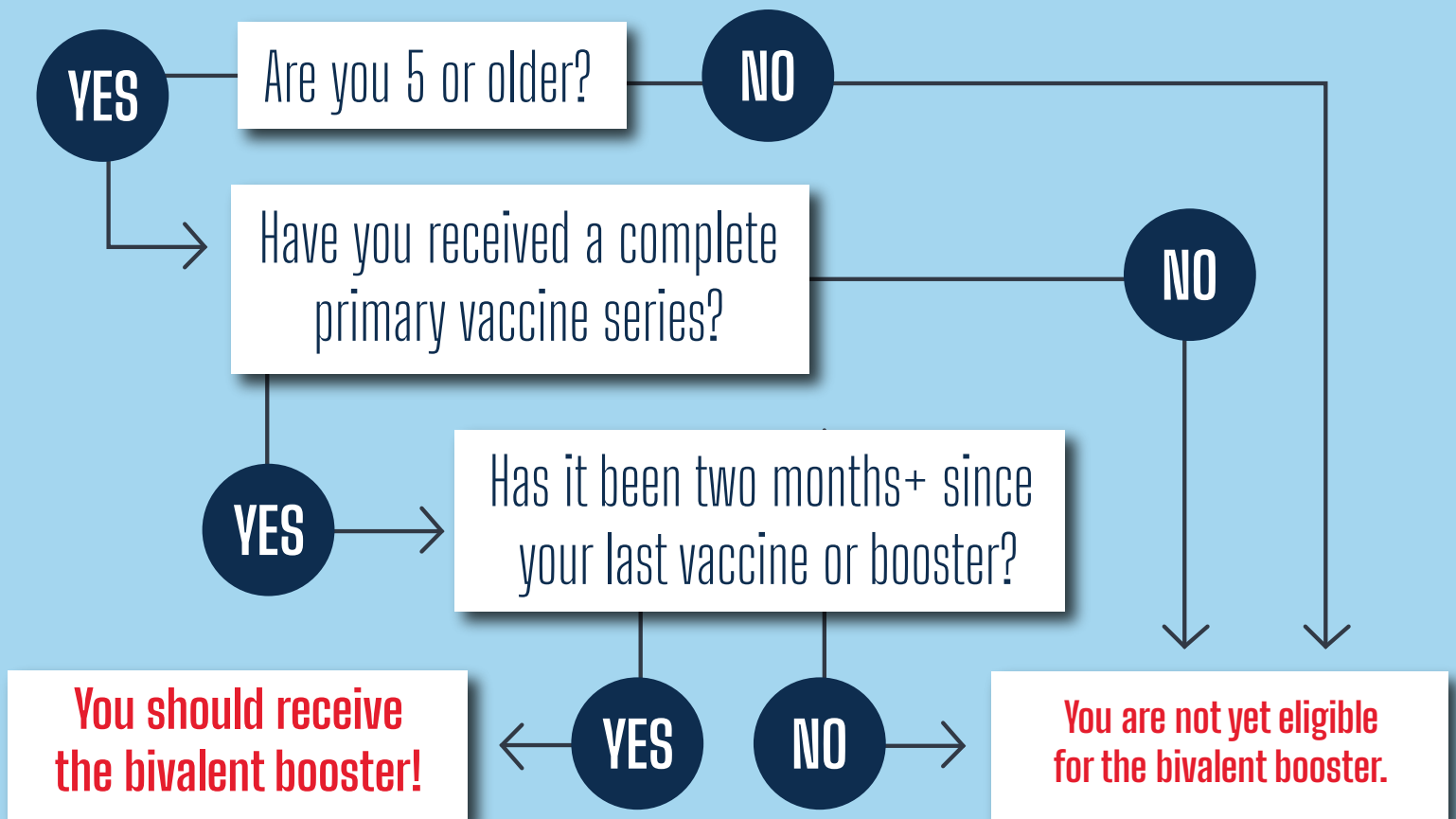
View the RSV webinar for healthcare providers from 11/7/22: The recording is [here](#) and the slides are [here](#).

DO I NEED TO GET A COVID BIVALENT BOOSTER THIS FALL?



IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN VACCINATED SINCE LABOR DAY... **IT'S TIME!**

Previously vaccinated Chicagoans age 5+ are eligible for the new bivalent booster and the best protection against Omicron.



¿NECESITAS UN REFUERZO BIVALENTE DE COVID ESTE OTOÑO?



SI NO TE HAS VACUNADO DESDE LABOR DAY... ¡ES TIEMPO!

Los habitantes de Chicago de edades 5+ vacunados previamente, son elegibles para el nuevo refuerzo bivalente y la mejor protección contra Ómicron.

