

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program

Issue Number 19: October 1, 2019

The news bulletin serves to keep you aware of emerging VFC program, vaccine and vaccine-preventable disease updates.

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- New Webinar: Business Side of Vaccines
- Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Updates
- Flu Vaccine Coverage for 2018-2019
- How to increase flu vaccine intake in the office

CHIP vaccine is now being distributed through orders placed in I-CARE!

We will work with you to facilitate a smooth transition and ensure you receive vaccine inventory for the populations you serve.

New Webinar: Business Side of Vaccines

As part of their 2019 Immunization Best Practices Webinar Series, The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) is hosting a new webinar titled “Business Side of Vaccines”. This webinar will go over information about coding for immunizations, vaccine product updates, and review payments for vaccine products.



Date: Thursday, October 3, 2019

Time: 12:00PM—1:00PM CST

Link to register [here](#)

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Update

Currently there are 175 Chicago VFC providers who have reported their CHIP Patient population in I-CARE. By reporting a CHIP patient population providers indicate that they intend to vaccinate CHIP eligible patients and therefore their vaccine orders will begin including allocations of CHIP in addition to VFC doses. These 175 providers are eligible to receive CHIP vaccines from the State of Illinois and these doses are intended to vaccinate CHIP eligible children.

Over 65% of eligible CHIP providers have already placed orders and have started receiving CHIP doses. Orders have been placed to make sure all of those providers have a Varicella-containing formulation and CHIP flu in their inventories as well.

CHIP providers should also keep an eye out for news about a special flu prebook for CHIP vaccines. This prebook information will be distributed as soon as we have successfully secured the doses. Until then, notify us at chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org if you are in need of additional CHIP doses, need to adjust the amount of CHIP doses you are receiving when you order, or want to update your Chicago VFC/CHIP patient population estimates to become eligible to start receiving CHIP vaccine.

Flu Vaccine Coverage for 2018-2019

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all individuals who are 6 months or older receive the influenza (flu) vaccination annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released flu vaccination coverage data for last flu season and found that nationally, flu vaccination rates during the 2018-2019 season have increased among children and adults compared to the previous 2017-2018 and 2016-2017 flu seasons. State coverage of flu vaccinations were varied, with 46%-81% among children and 34%-56% among adults. Read on to learn more about Chicago and Illinois rates!

Cumulative Influenza Vaccination Coverage estimates, 2018-2019 season

	Children 6 mo –17 yo (%)	Adults ≥ 18 (%)	Adults ≥ 65 (%)
Chicago	68.2	42.9	66.9
Illinois	60.1	41.3	67.4
United States	62.6	45.3	68.1

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention FluVaxView, 2018-2019 Influenza Season

[CDPH Flu Clinic Schedule](#)

[CDC Flu Fact Sheet](#)

[CDC Flu Resource Center](#)

As for the city of Chicago, the 2018-2019 data showed children ages 6 months to 17 years have a coverage rate of a little over 68%. **Children ages 6 months to 4 years saw an estimated 77% coverage rate, passing the Healthy People 2020 vaccination coverage goal of 70%.** Children ages 5-12 years are at 68%, and teenagers (13-17 years) are at 57%. Adults 18 years and above saw coverage rates at 43%. In the state of Illinois, vaccination rates for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics have all increased significantly compared to the 2017-2018 flu season.

National data showed that coverage rates for adults over 18 years of age, coverage rates increased by 8.2 percentage points from the previous season. In this age group, non-Hispanic whites had the highest coverage at 48%, with non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics at 39% and 37%.

More information on flu vaccination coverage from 2018-2019 can be found [here](#).



Flu season is here!

Don't forget to urge all of your patients and patient's families to get vaccinated against the flu to protect themselves, their neighbors, and their loved ones.

Contact Us:

Primary Contact Method:

ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org

Please use this email for all general VFC inquiries and issues including those related to vaccine orders and temperature excursions.

Program Questions:

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Flu Information

The Flu: A Guide for Parents



Looking to increase flu vaccine uptake in your office?

A recent 2019 *Pediatrics* article showed that providing a simple educational intervention in the form of a handout in the waiting room before a pediatric provider visit can help increase child influenza vaccine receipt. A sample of about 400 families taking their children in for a clinic visit were either given an influenza educational handout that included national data, local data, or were not given a handout at all. Findings include:

- Parents who received any educational intervention (national or local data handout) versus usual care had **greater odds of having their child vaccinated by the end of the season** (74.9% vs 65.4%; adjusted odds ratio [aOR] 1.68; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.06–2.67).
- Parents who received the national data intervention (versus usual care) had **greater odds of their child receiving flu vaccine that day** (59.0% vs 52.6%; aOR 1.79; 95% CI: 1.04–3.08).

The article will be posted on the VFC HAN page and can be found [here](#).