

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 5: MAY 2023



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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](mailto:ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org)

REGIONAL VFC TRAINING

The 2023 regional VFC training is now available! This training is available on the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics' Learning Management System called Remote Learner. Please take note of these important considerations:

- Two staff members from each VFC site must complete training.
- Training must be completed *individually*. Each person must create an account, complete the modules, and submit a post-test and course evaluation.
- **Training must be completed by 7/28/23**. Ordering privileges will be suspended if training requirements are not met.

See pages 3-5 for instructions on how to access the training.

Please reach out to Monica Del Cielo at mdelciello@illinoisAAP.com if you have any other questions regarding this year's training.



VFC RE-ENROLLMENT REMINDER

IF YOU HAVE NOT STARTED THE VFC RE-ENROLLMENT PROCESS, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Providers who did not start the re-enrollment process by May 1, 2023, have had their ordering privileges suspended. Ordering privileges will also be suspended if the re-enrollment process is not completed by May 15, 2023. If you have any questions about this process, please refer to the re-enrollment webinar [recording](#) and [slides](#) or reach out to Chicagovfc@cityofchicago.org

Vaccines for Children (VFC)

2023 Annual Training

The annual VFC training for Chicago providers is here! Please read these documents carefully, save for your future reference, and mark your calendars for the training deadline - 7/28/23.



→ ACCESS THE TRAINING

Click [here](#) to access the website where the training is held. Then, scan the QR code or see page 2 for directions to create an account. See the attached FAQ for directions to access the course.



→ TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY JULY 28, 2023

In order to be able to order vaccines, please ensure two people from your site complete training on time.

For more information, contact Monica Del Ciello at mdelciello@illinoisap.com

→ REQUIREMENTS

- 2 staff members from each VFC site must complete the training
- Training must be completed individually
- Training must be completed by July 28, 2023
- Completed training =
 - Module 1
 - Module 2
 - Module 3
 - Module 4
 - Post-Test
 - Course Evaluation



FREE CME AVAILABLE

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is accredited by the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics designates this enduring material for a maximum of 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses and Nurse Practitioners can submit Certificates of Attendance to their accrediting board to claim credit for participation in the live webinars.





Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Learning Management System (LMS) Guide

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), offers online course modules for educational training that can be used in your practice.

To create an account on the LMS, follow the steps below.

- 1** Login into the learning management system, go to <https://icaap.remote-learner.net/>.  Google Chrome is recommended as your web browser for the best experience.
- 2** Next, select the **"Create Account"** button at the top right of the screen.
- 3** Then, under the subheading, **"Is this your first time here?"**, click **"Create an Account"**.
- 4** Fill out the fields (fields with **red** asterisks are required), following this select, **"Create my New Account"**.

**Need help?
No problem!**

Contact Erin Moore or Visit Our FAQ's Page: Phone:
312.733.1026 ext. 209 | **Email:** emoore@illinoisAAP.com | **LMS**
FAQ's: <https://bit.ly/2llzdNG>



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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Illinois Chapter

- ★ Q: Do I have to complete the course in one sitting?**
A: No. You can stop the course at anytime and pick up where you left off the next time you login. You can also pause and rewind videos!
- ★ Q: Do I have to get a certain grade on the quizzes?**
A: During the training, you do not have to get all the questions right (these are called "knowledge checks"). These are the questions you will take all together at the end of the training (the post-test). You do have to get at least 7/10 questions correct on the post-test. You will have as many attempts as you need to get this score.
- ★ Q: How do I get my certificate of completion for the course?**
A: The certificate will be available to you to download once you have finished the course and passed the post-test. CDPH does **not** need a copy of this sent to them, but it's good to print and keep on file.
- ★ Q: Can I complete the training with coworkers?**
A: No, new this year - you must complete the training individually. This means you must register for your own account and complete the course in order for your participation to be documented.
- ★ Q: Can I skip certain parts of the training?**
A: No, you must complete every component of the training. The next activity will not be available until you complete the previous one.
- ★ Q: How do I navigate through the course?**
A: Once you have confirmed your LMS user registration, [visit this website](#). Then
1. Click "Course Catalog"
 2. Click "Immunizations"
 3. Select "2023 CDPH Vaccines for Children Training"
 4. Click "Overview and Course Navigation"
 5. At the bottom of the page, you will find a document that provides detailed instructions on navigating the rest of the course.
- ★ Q: What do I do if I work for multiple VFC sites (ie. 1 organization that has multiple sites with different VFC pins)?**
You only have to complete the training once! Just make sure you report all of your pin numbers in the course evaluation.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

In April and May 2023, updates to the COVID-19 vaccination schedules were made. The changes simplified the schedules for some age groups and less COVID-19 products are being used, as monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized for use. You can visit the [CDC for the most up to date clinical guidance](#) and view the COCA call [Updated Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Use](#) held May 11, 2023.

Additionally, the Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics partnered with CDPH & IDPH on April 25th to host a webinar on COVID-19 vaccine updates (note this was held *prior* to the May 2023 changes). Here is the [recording](#) and [slides](#). For scheduling/dosing charts and additional resources, visit the Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) website [here](#).

Getting paid for bivalent COVID-19 vaccine administration: Based on the updated CDC guidelines, six new immunization administration CPT codes have been created. Illinois Medicaid COVID-19 Fee Schedule was updated May 12 and can be viewed [here](#). More information on CPT codes from the AAP is [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine ordering: IL providers are still able to place orders for both Pfizer and Moderna bivalent vaccines from the existing U.S. stockpile at no cost. This is anticipated to last through summer.

HHS COVID-19 VACCINE & TREATMENT ACCESS PROGRAM

Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines (the transition from direct government purchase of these vaccines to purchases by public and private payers) is expected in the fall as mentioned above. Some questions remain about the details of this [change](#). However, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced a [program](#) that will help maintain access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments for the uninsured. Through this program, government-purchased COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed to local health departments and HRSA-supported health centers. Additionally, partnerships with pharmacy chains will allow COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to be given at no cost to the uninsured.

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PREVENTION - PROGRAM SUMMARY AND METRICS

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) at CDPH works to prevent transmission of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) from pregnant persons to their infants at birth. Without preventive treatment and vaccination, 40% of infants born to persons with HBV infection will be infected either at birth or within their first two years of life. Infants infected with HBV experience long-term negative health outcomes, and approximately one quarter will die prematurely from cirrhosis or liver cancer. However, delivery of HepB vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) at birth, followed by a complete vaccine series, can prevent 94% of these infections. Following vaccination, serology testing of all exposed is essential to verify that protective immunity has been established, allow for revaccination if necessary, and catch any infections early to allow prompt referral for management.

To ensure that these essential prevention steps are adhered to, CDPH works closely with providers and parents to manage all exposed infants through successful completion of vaccination or two years of age. In 2022, the PHBPP served 82 infants. Of 56 infants born in 2021, 100% received HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine within one calendar day of birth, and 93% completed the vaccine series by 12 months, exceeding national targets. However, post-vaccination serology testing among Chicago children has consistently fallen short of the national target (85%), with only 65% of exposed infants born in 2021 completing serology testing by the end of 2022.

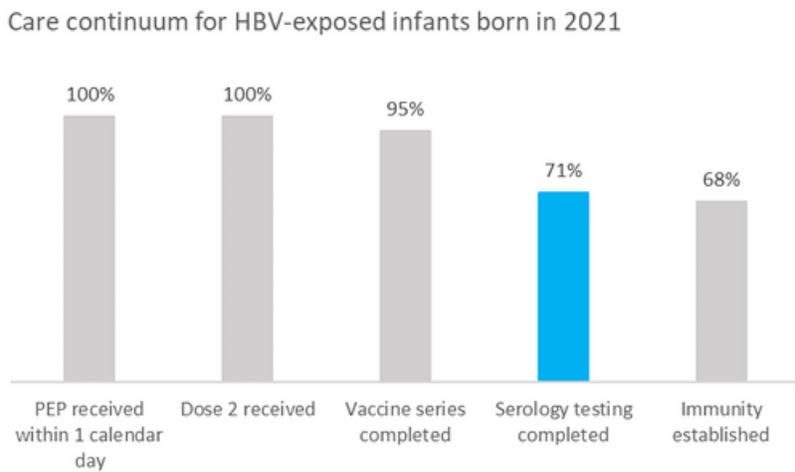
How can you help?

Healthcare providers are essential at all stages of hepatitis B prevention, from promptly referring HBsAg-positive pregnant persons to the program through ensuring completion of the vaccine series and serologic testing of exposed infants. As we work to improve Chicago's performance, particularly by ensuring all exposed infants receive serology testing, you can assist by:

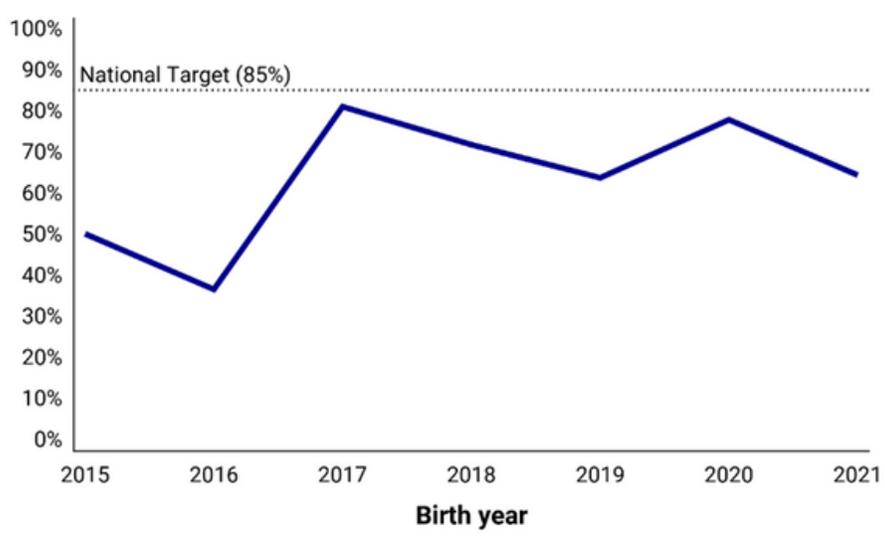
- Reviewing recommendations for serology testing and ensuring that the proper tests are ordered at 9 months or 1 month after series completion, whichever is later.
- Promptly responding to requests from the PHBPP case manager for serology testing results.
- Working with the PHBPP case manager to rapidly reschedule infants for serology testing if an appointment is missed.

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PREVENTION - PROGRAM SUMMARY AND METRICS

Most infants born in 2021 and exposed to hepatitis B successfully completed the HepB vaccine series within 2 years, but over a quarter did not receive recommended post-vaccination serology testing.



Since 2015, Chicago has never achieved the national target for serology testing (85% of exposed infants receive post-vaccination serology testing by the calendar year after birth).



Healthcare providers are required to refer pregnant women who are HBsAg positive within 7 days after receipt of the test result to the local health department for case management. Chicago providers can fulfill this reporting requirement by providing contact information for the patient, along with demographics, and HBsAg test date via I-NEDSS (preferred) or CDPH's [secure online reporting form.](#)

IMMUNIZATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (IQIP)

Would you like to see higher patient immunization rates at your clinic? Take advantage of the VFC IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) Program. This program starts with helpful feedback on your clinic's immunization rates. Then, the consultant will work with you to create a plan of action to improve coverage rates and procedures over the next year.

Your clinic will also receive:

- Training on how to run reports in ICARE, as well as eliminating inactive patients.
- Education and handouts on the immunization schedule.
- Tips on how to talk to parents and strongly recommend all vaccines.
- Handouts to inform parents of the importance of complete and timely vaccination.
- Technical support for getting access to ICARE and EMR transmission issues.
- A year of supportive check-in calls.

Many clinics have raised their coverage rates by 10% or more because of the IQIP Program.

Contact Elissa Jones at Elissa.Jones@cityofchicago.org or 312-746-6266 to schedule your IQIP session.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preparing for Summer Vacations - Travel Vaccinations (ICAAP Immunizations Webinar Series)

- Tuesday May 16th, 12PM - 1PM. Register [here](#).

CCDPH & AHC Hepatitis B Webinar Series: Reducing the Risk of Hepatitis B – Perinatal Hepatitis B Webinar

- Monday May 22nd, 12PM - 1PM. Register [here](#).