

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 7: JULY 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Annual VFC Training Reminder
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Updates
- Targeted Messaging to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines for Children
- Summer Travel Measles Guidance

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

VFC TRAINING REMINDER

The 2023 training must be completed by July 28, 2023. This is less than a month away.

The training is available on the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics' (ICAAP) Learning Management System called Remote Learner. **In order to avoid your ordering privileges being suspended:**

- Two staff members from each VFC site must complete training: Training must be completed individually. Each person must create an account, complete the modules, submit a post-test, and course evaluation.
- Training must be completed by 7/28/23. Ordering privileges will be suspended after this date if the above criteria have not been met.

See pages 3-5 of the May 2023 VFC new bulletin for instructions on how to access the training.

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

This is a separate training requirement from the You Call the Shots modules completed during re-enrollment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18, 12PM: Social Determinants of Health & Vaccine Equity Webinar

August 2, 12PM: Congenital Syphilis: An Update for Pediatricians

August 15, 12PM: State & National Vaccine Policy and Advocacy

August 24, 8AM: Virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Bootcamp

ACIP UPDATES

The CDC's ACIP met June 21 – 23, 2023. As a result, there are a number of vaccine updates to share. Votes took place on some topics only. Here are the most relevant updates:

RSV Vaccine (Discussion)

Maternal/pediatric RSV vaccine options were discussed. A Pfizer vaccine would be administered to mothers towards the end of pregnancy or a monoclonal antibody would be administered directly to the child, both which would provide at least 6 months of protection. However, there may not be a benefit of the maternal vaccine to infants born outside of respiratory virus season and the impact of pre-term birth on vaccine effectiveness must also be considered. *ACIP is expected to vote on these products in October.*

Flu Vaccine (Vote)

Flu vaccine strains will be updated for the 2023-2024 season, while remaining quadrivalent. There will be no new products or updates to authorized ages. However, the committee did vote to adopt language that no special considerations need to be made when vaccinating those with an egg allergy, other than being prepared to respond to allergic reactions. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) maintains its previous years' recommendation that everyone 6 months of age and older should receive a flu vaccine.

Pneumococcal 20-Valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV20) (Vote)

ACIP voted to approve PCV20 for use in children as young as 6 weeks of age. This vaccine can be used as an alternative to PPSV23 for older children with chronic medical conditions or immunocompromise. PCV15 remains available and neither PCV15 or PCV20 is preferred at this time. PCV20 will also be made available through the VFC program. Find more details on the recommended use of PCV20 [here](#).

ACIP UPDATES CONTINUED

Dengue Vaccine (Discussion)

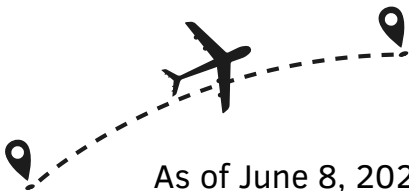
The committee heard preliminary information about a new dengue vaccine that may not require pre-vaccination screening.

Meningococcal Vaccine (Discussion)

ACIP reviewed the potential uses of a new pentavalent meningococcal vaccine that would protect against serotypes A, B, C, W, & Y. It is expected that this would be a two dose vaccine, administered 6 months apart. No votes were made, but the committee will likely continue to discuss this option at future meetings.

COVID-19 Vaccine (Discussion)

ACIP reviewed data on the effectiveness and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. Effectiveness against hospitalization starts to wane after 6 months, but protection against death and severe disease remains. Despite these benefits, uptake of the bivalent vaccine remains low. For the fall, the FDA has recommended a monovalent vaccine for the currently circulating variant, XBB.1.5. Once this vaccine has been developed and authorized by the FDA, ACIP will review the data and make a recommendation.



SUMMER TRAVEL MEASLES GUIDANCE

As of June 8, 2023, 16 cases of measles have been confirmed in the US, with the majority linked to international travel. This poses a public health threat, particularly among un- or under-vaccinated communities, as measles is extremely contagious. Measles vaccination recommendations begin at age 12 months, but younger children that will be travelling internationally should consider an early dose. All international travelers should be able to demonstrate proof of immunity, through documentation of vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, or laboratory confirmation of measles. See the CDC's HAN notice for more information on educating and vaccinating patients that will be travelling internationally this summer.

TARGETED VACCINE MESSAGING

A 2021 survey conducted in Chicago assessed the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine messaging on parental intention to vaccinate children and adolescents. The most effective messages among a sample of 898 parents were those that highlighted that other trusted parents have vaccinated their children. Messaging about vaccine safety and testing was somewhat effective, but less likely to be associated with increased vaccination after adjusting for population characteristics. Significant differences in messaging effectiveness between races were not noted. Ultimately, Chicago providers should consider using trusted parent messaging when promoting COVID-19 vaccines with their patients.

FLU PREBOOK

Flu vaccine pre-booking is now available for the 2023-2024 flu season. Providers should determine the amount of vaccine to order by considering their overall VFC-eligible population and the amount of VFC flu vaccine administered last year. See our HAN alert for details on how to run these reports. After following these steps, you should place your order using this form by the **end of July**. **Please note:** all flu vaccine from the previous season expired as of June 30, 2023. Providers should fill out a vaccine return form for any unused flu vaccine from the 2022-2023 season.



HHS COMMERCIALIZATION TRANSITION GUIDE ISSUED

July 6, 2023, per the CDC: [Guidance from HHS](#) provides direction to those participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program as the USG stops distributing COVID-19 vaccines through its current ordering system and the vaccines transition to traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment of COVID-19 vaccines. The document also includes information on:

- Exceptional orders after full-scale ordering closes
- Guidance on inventory and disposal management of vaccine & ancillary supplies
- Data reporting requirements
- CDC programs for uninsured individuals
- Anticipated vaccine schedule for fall
- Planning considerations

The exact date of this transition is not currently known. However, all Chicago VFC providers will be required to offer COVID-19 vaccines upon commercialization. Additional guidance from CDC will become available in the days ahead.

CPS BACK TO SCHOOL

It's not too early to start thinking about back to school appointments and vaccination requirements! See [CPS' Student Health & School Forms Booklet](#) for the district's minimum health requirements, forms, & more for the upcoming school year. Proof of required immunizations and school physical exams are due by 10/15/23. These requirements have not changed from previous years and are in line with what is required by the State of Illinois.

