

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 9: SEPTEMBER 2023



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- 2023 - 2024 Flu Vaccine Recommendations
- Increasing Vaccine Confidence
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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

RSV PROTECTION FOR NEWBORNS AND BABIES

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus™) is a monoclonal antibody that has been authorized by the CDC to prevent RSV. This product is not a vaccine, but it is an immunization as it provides passive immunity. It is administered via IM injection and will be available through the VFC program. Here are some important details about Nirsevimab:

- Eligibility:
 - Infants under 8 months born during or entering their first RSV season.
 - Children 8 months through 19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season.
- Can be safely co-administered with age-appropriate vaccines.
- Palivizumab (SYNAGIS™) can still be used if Nirsevimab is not available
 - If < 5 doses of palivizumab are administered and nirsevimab becomes available, the child should receive 1 dose of nirsevimab.
 - No further palivizumab should be administered following receipt of nirsevimab.

You may also be hearing about Arexvy and Abrysvo, which are vaccines to prevent RSV in older adults and pregnant women. These products will not be part of the VFC program, but will be important tools in reducing the burden of RSV.

Additional Resources:

- [Slides](#) and [recording](#) from CDPH/ICAAP's 9/6/23 webinar on RSV prevention
- Patient handouts: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [Provider handout](#)



PREVNAR₂₀ AVAILABLE FOR ORDER

As of September 1, 2023 Prevnar20 (PCV20) is now available for order through VFC. With this change, Prevnar13 (PCV13) is no longer available to order. If you have PCV13 in your stock and it is the only pneumococcal vaccine available at the time of a child's appointment, it may be administered as recommended. All children six weeks through 59 months of age and children 5 through 18 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions are eligible to receive PCV20. Either PCV15 or PCV20 may be used for the full series or to complete the recommended schedule begun with PCV13. Find more information about administering pneumococcal vaccines [here](#).

COVID-19 COMMERCIALIZATION UPDATES

An updated monovalent COVID-19 vaccine with an XBB.1.5-lineage of the Omicron variant will be available on the commercial market this fall. ACIP is expected to vote on the recommendations for these products on September 12th, pending the VRBPAC meeting on September 11th.

Ordering for bivalent COVID-19 vaccines ended on August 1, 2023. If you do not have enough bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to serve your patients through the end of September, please reach out to COVID19vaccine@cityofchicago.org for assistance locating extra doses.

All VFC providers will be required to provide COVID-19 vaccines upon commercialization. The [VFC COVID-19 vaccine pre-book survey](#) is available and should be completed as soon as possible.

Join CDPH and ICAAP for bi-weekly commercialization webinars through October 2023 to get the most up-to-date information. See the upcoming events on page 6 for more information and a link to register.

2023 - 2024 FLU VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS & FLU REPORT CARDS

The 2023-2024 recommendations for use of flu vaccine are available! All flu vaccines have been updated to target the new virus strains and are quadrivalent. Additionally, people with egg allergies can receive a flu shot without needing to visit a special medical setting.

The recommendations otherwise remain the same as last flu season. Both ACIP and AAP recommend everyone 6 months and older, without contraindications, receive the flu shot that is appropriate for their age. Those individuals who need one flu shot should aim to receive it in September or October. For those 65+, it is best to receive any of the higher dose or adjuvanted vaccines. Co-administration of flu vaccines with other vaccines (including COVID-19) is safe and encouraged to help avoid missed opportunities. Help your patients stay safe this respiratory virus season by stocking and offering all recommended vaccines. Find more tools (including flyers and social media graphics) for promoting flu vaccine uptake in ICAAP's new toolkit.

Please be on the lookout for a flu report in your inbox that you may use a resource for your next flu vaccine order. The report will show trends and metrics regarding flu vaccine ordering and Vaccines for Children (VFC) patient populations for the last several years. More specifically, the data demonstrates whether historical ordering trends for flu have been sufficient for the VFC population you serve or if you should consider ordering additional doses. We believe this information may be useful in guiding future flu season orders and potentially increasing flu vaccination rates.



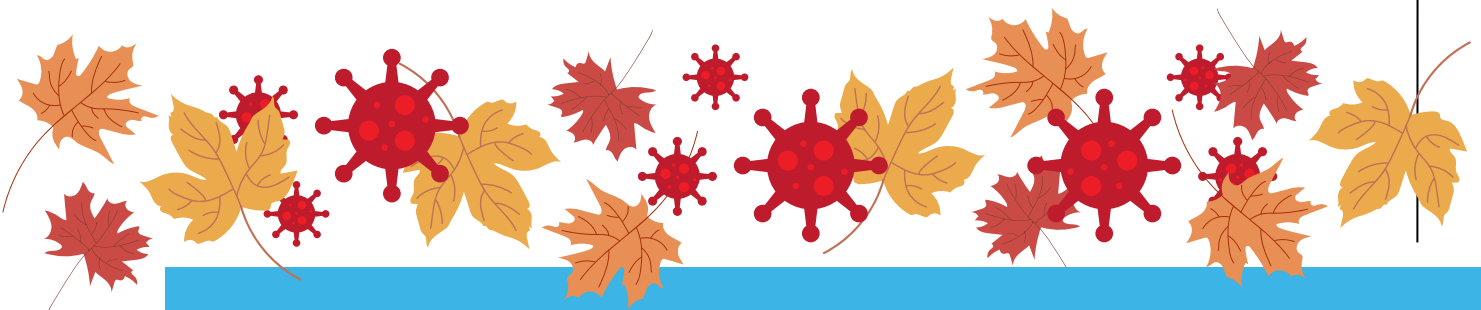
INCREASING VACCINE CONFIDENCE

Amid growing vaccine hesitancy fueled by misinformation and disinformation, promoting vaccine confidence is vital. Healthcare professionals remain the most trusted and influential source for parents' vaccination decisions. The 3Cs (Confident, Concise, and Consistent) concept, developed by the Unity Consortium, can aid parents and adolescents in transitioning from vaccine hesitancy to vaccine confidence and same-day vaccination. The 3Cs training initiative equips healthcare providers to handle vaccine concerns and hesitancy through real-life scenarios by promoting confident, concise, and consistent recommendations. The program features self-guided training you can apply yourself and with your clinical team. You can learn more and sign up to access the program [here](#).

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON

As we start to transition from summer to fall, we are also moving into a new respiratory virus season. Similar to previous years, we expect to see our communities (and particularly our children) significantly impacted by COVID-19, flu, and RSV infections (i.e. the “triple-demic”). However, *unlike* previous years, this year we will have tools that can help protect against each of these preventable diseases.

While we don't know exactly what to expect this fall/winter, we know that infections from all three of these viruses will increase as people head indoors. RSV activity is already increasing in the Southeastern US. This general trend is unlikely to change, so we must normalize not just addressing flu this season, but all respiratory viruses, their significant impacts, and how to prevent illness and overwhelming hospitals.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12 -
Dec. 19

I-VAC Learning Collaboratives
w/ ECHO Chicago

Respiratory Virus Season:
Flu, COVID, & RSV Vaccines

Sept. 19

Sept. 15 -
Oct. 27

Biweekly COVID-19
Commercialization Updates

ICAAP Annual Education
Conference

Nov.
9 & 10

