

Traveling patients? Think measles!

Springtime is the season for measles, particularly in endemic countries. With the end of the school year, many families are making travel plans to these countries. Additionally, MMR vaccination rates are lagging in Minnesota children which increases the threat of a measles outbreak. Keep in mind that infants ages 6-11 months should receive both MMR and hepatitis when traveling outside the United States. And children 5 through 17 years can receive MMR vaccine at the same time as COVID-19 vaccine. Here is what providers can do to reduce the risk of someone bringing back measles along with travel memories:

- Assess immunization status for every patient at every encounter. Many children and teens are behind on other routine vaccinations.
- Remind families about the need for vaccination to travel outside the U.S. A [“Think Measles” poster](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html) is available that clinics can use.
- Send reminder/recall notices to patients behind on MMR vaccine in particular. [MIIC Regions and Regional Coordinators](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/regions.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/regions.html) can assist. MDH/MIIC can also help with sending text messages to parents/patients overdue or recommended for vaccine. For more information on this activity, please email the MIIC helpdesk at health.miichelp@state.mn.us.

Curious about your current immunization rates? Use the MIIC Assessment Reports!

COVID-19 has impacted routine care for everyone. Use MIIC’s Assessment Reports to see this impact on your patient population. Run MIIC’s Childhood Immunization Summary Report to see whether your patients are completing the childhood immunization series on time. You can run the Adolescent Summary Report to see how your adolescent population is measuring up to national standards. The Adult Summary Reports shows you how your practice is protecting adults of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases. You can run these reports for all patients in a particular age range who are associated with your organization in MIIC, or on a specific list of patients you serve. If you have many patients, make sure you leave plenty of time to run the report or run it in off-business hours. Once you’ve run the report, review the information to identify any opportunities for improvement.

These reports are the foundation of the Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) program, a quality improvement site visit focused on planning out activities to increase clinic level vaccination rates. Find more information at [Immunization Assessment: MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html), and find out more about the IQIP program in the [March 2022 Got Your Shots? News](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/gys/mar22.pdf) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/gys/mar22.pdf).

Adult immunization web content updates

MDH immunization and vaccine preventable disease web content is now updated to reflect the new 2022 adult immunization recommendations for zoster, pneumococcal and hepatitis B. Our [vaccine protocol templates](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/protocols/index.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/protocols/index.html) now include these new adult immunization recommendations. Vaccine providers and your patients may also be interested in our [Diseases Prevented by Vaccines](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/vpds.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/vpds.html) pages that provide general disease-specific information as well as guidance on disease reporting and vaccination for health care professionals. Additionally, the [Vaccine for Adults](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/adults.html#all1) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/adults.html#all1) page summarizes current adult immunization recommendations and is a great resource for your adult patients.

New Hepatitis B vaccination protocols published

Protocols were updated to reflect the new CDC publication [Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7113a1.htm?s_cid=mm7113a1_w) (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7113a1.htm?s_cid=mm7113a1_w). In addition to universal hepatitis B vaccination of adults to age 60 years, vaccination is also recommended for adults 60 years of age and older with risk factors and allowed for people in this age group without known risk. The new hepatitis B vaccine product, PreHevbrio, licensed for people 18 years and older, was incorporated into the recommendations.

Current VISs

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give all patients, or their parents or legal guardians, the appropriate Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) before giving vaccines. Check to make sure you have the most [Current VISs](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html) (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html) for your practice.

Find translated versions at [IAC Vaccine Information Statements](http://www.immunize.org/vis/) (www.immunize.org/vis/).