

**Immunization Champion Award: Call for nominations**

MDH is seeking nominations for the 2023 Immunization Champion Award. The Champion Award is a national program hosted by the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) to honor one person per jurisdiction doing exemplary work to foster and promote immunizations in any vaccine category for any age group in their community. Nominees can be leaders from health care, education, non-profits, community, and other immunization partners. For more information and the nomination packet visit [AIM: 2023 Immunization Champion Awards \(www.immunizationmanagers.org/resources/2023-immunization-champion-awards/\)](https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/resources/2023-immunization-champion-awards/). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, May 19. Completed nomination forms can be sent to [melody.doan.contractor@state.mn.us](mailto:melody.doan.contractor@state.mn.us). Self-nominations are welcome. Share this information with your network and eligible immunization partners.

**MIIC spring webinar series**

The four-part MIIC webinar series began on April 19. The remaining sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. MIIC staff will cover several aspects of MIIC and include time for questions.

- To view the recordings for webinars one and two visit [MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html).
- Webinar 3: [Getting Data In and Out of MIIC](#) on May 10 will cover electronic data exchange, editing immunizations, Bulk Query and special reports.
- Webinar 4: [MIIC Tools to Increase Immunization Coverage](#) on May 17 will cover assessment reports for understanding immunization coverage and client follow up (CFU) for obtaining information about clients' overdue/recommended immunizations.

If you have any questions or need access to the registration links email the MIIC Help Desk at [health.miichelp@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miichelp@state.mn.us).

**MIIC postcards coming soon to a child near you**

In June, MDH will be sending reminder postcards to families of children 12-months-old (as of Jan. 1) who are overdue or recommended for a vaccine. This may increase calls for immunization visits. We encourage providers to spread the word about the postcards to clinic staff and make sure they have enough vaccine on hand. If you have any questions, contact the MIIC Help Desk at [health.miichelp@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miichelp@state.mn.us).

**Hepatitis B screening recommendation update**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published updates to their screening and testing recommendations for hepatitis B. The new recommendations state that all adults should be screened for hepatitis B at least once during their lifetime using three laboratory tests. The three laboratory tests recommended for this screening are hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs), and total antibody to HBcAg (total anti-HBc). The new recommendations include persons incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, persons with a history of sexually transmitted infections or multiple sex partners, and persons with a history of hepatitis C infection. Additionally, anyone who requests hepatitis B testing should be tested regardless of disclosure of risks. The full article can be found at [MMWR: Screening and Testing for Hepatitis B Virus Infection \(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7201a1.htm\)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7201a1.htm).

**Planning summer travel? Think measles**

Measles cases in Minnesota are often tied to travel. Assess patients for MMR before they travel and encourage patients to be aware of measles

symptoms when they return, and offer relevant travel vaccinations needed for their destination country. For more information visit:

- [CDC: Think Travel Vaccine Guide \(wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/vaccine-guide\)](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/vaccine-guide).
- [CDC Traveler's Health: Measles in Globe \(https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-globe\)](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-globe).
- [Measles Information For Health Professionals \(www.health.mn.gov/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html\)](http://www.health.mn.gov/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html).
- [Think Measles \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/think-measles/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/think-measles/index.html) (available in multiple languages).

**Mumps testing and reporting reminder**

Mumps is a reportable disease in Minnesota. Suspect cases of mumps should be reported to MDH within one business day. Lab testing is necessary to confirm a case of mumps and implement appropriate public health measures. MDH offers free PCR testing. When performing a PCR test for mumps, a buccal swab and urine specimen is preferred. Serology testing is still available at other reference labs but is not preferred as it can cross react with a lot of other viruses including parainfluenza, Epstein-Barr, adenovirus, and human herpesvirus 6. Mumps and MDH-Public Health Lab testing information: [Mumps Information For Health Professionals \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mumps/hcp/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mumps/hcp/index.html).

**Help eligible Minnesotans keep their public insurance**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is asking for your support in communicating to the 1.5 million Minnesotans who rely on the state's public health care programs for their health insurance (Minnesota's Medicaid program) of upcoming changes. Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare renewals were paused during the pandemic to help Minnesotans access care and maintain high insurance coverage rates in the state. According to federal law, a renewal process will be restarted, and people must have their eligibility reviewed once a year to ensure they still qualify for these programs. One in four Minnesotans will need to have their eligibility for their public health insurance reviewed to ensure they can keep their coverage.

Since the renewal process is paper-based and relies on postal mail, it is critical for enrollees to update their contact information, including their phone number, email, and home address, if they have moved in the last three years. Enrollees must complete the renewal process to keep their insurance and avoid gaps in coverage. More information at [DHS: Overview: Resuming public health care program renewals \(https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/overview/\)](https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/overview/). Resources created for community partners to communicate these changes can be found at [DHS: Communication toolkits for partners \(https://mn.gov/dhs/mycontactinfo/communications-toolkits/\)](https://mn.gov/dhs/mycontactinfo/communications-toolkits/).

**New resource for international travel vaccine timeline**

Recommended and required vaccines vary based on a person's travel destination. To address this issue, our international health team developed the [Protect Your Health: Vaccine Before International Travel \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/travel/vaxtimeline.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/travel/vaxtimeline.pdf) handout with information on when to get the most common travel vaccines (e.g., yellow fever, rabies, typhoid, etc.) and resources to learn more about diseases that cannot be prevented by vaccines. For more information, visit [Guidance for Travelers: International Travel and Infectious Disease \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/travel/travelers.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/travel/travelers.html) or email [health.idee@state.mn.us](mailto:health.idee@state.mn.us).