

Continuing Pediatric Vaccination During COVID-19

The Minnesota Department of Health encourages health care providers to continue vaccinating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially infants who are at high risk of getting diseases that vaccines can prevent. Slowing or stopping access to vaccinations increases our risk of other disease outbreaks.

We have put together a fact sheet for providers with guidance and tips for helping to provide a safe environment for patients and staff while continuing to provide vaccinations. See *Pediatric Vaccination During COVID-19* on the MDH Immunization website (www.health.state.mn.us/immunize). Guidance for adult vaccination will be coming soon.

Because of personal, practice, or community circumstances related to COVID-19, some providers may not be able to provide well-child visits, including giving vaccinations, for all patients in their practice. If a practice can provide only limited well-child visits, we encourage providers to:

- Prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age).
- Serve children from age 2-6 years in need of vaccinations for child care or school requirements as the next priority group.
- You can use the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) (www.health.state.mn.us/miic) to issue targeted reminder or recall notices for patients. Go to the MIIC Client Follow-Up (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html) page for more information and guidance.
- If possible, contact schools and child care facilities in your community to inform them of your ability or lack thereof to vaccinate patients during this unprecedented time.

Continue to follow immunization best practices (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/bestpractices.html) for storing, handling, and administering vaccines.

Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) program sites will not have in-person site visits at this time. See the March 30, 2020, MnVFC Announcement (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/announcements.html) for more information.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Minnesotans from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Resources

- American Academy of Pediatrics: COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Q & A (<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/covid-19-clinical-guidance-q-a/>).
- CDC: Resources for Clinics and Healthcare Facilities (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html).
- CDC: Vaccines When Your Child Is Sick (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/visit/sick-child.html).
- MDH: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html).