

Preventing cervical cancers with HPV vaccination

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Join the Minnesota Department of Health's immunization and SAGE cervical cancer screening programs in promoting on-time and catch-up Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for adolescents as well as routine cervical cancer screening for adults through social media.

HPV infection can cause 6 types of cancer, including most cervical cancers. In Minnesota, more than half of adolescents have received their first dose of HPV vaccine by their 13th birthday but less than a third of them have completed the series.

Explore statewide, county-level and metro county zip-code-level adolescent vaccination coverage data through interactive tables and maps at the [Minnesota Public Health Data Access: Immunizations \(https://data.web.health.state.mn.us/web/mndata/immunization\)](https://data.web.health.state.mn.us/web/mndata/immunization).

Encourage families with 11- to 12-year-olds to schedule a vaccine appointment for HPV vaccination along with other routine vaccines they need, including COVID-19 vaccine. Older adolescents may have missed HPV vaccination during the pandemic.

MDH encourages health care providers to reach out to families to schedule catch-up vaccination appointments as well. For more information on strategies for improving HPV vaccination rates in your clinic, visit [For Health Care Providers Serving Adolescents \(www.wevaxteens.org\)](http://www.wevaxteens.org).

Influenza data trends

Influenza activity in Minnesota has been increasing across several indicators over the last month. Laboratory data shows rapid growth in the number of positive influenza tests, and more influenza-associated outbreaks are being reported in schools and long-term care facilities. The predominant strain, influenza A/H3N2, is often associated with more hospitalizations and disease in the elderly.

While it is still too early to say how this season will play out, hospitalization rates are currently lower than previous H3-dominant seasons, where hospitalizations tend to peak in December and January.

- So far in the 2021-2022 flu season, 1.96 million doses of influenza vaccine have been received by Minnesotans.
- Compared to the same time period in the 2020-2021 flu season, this is 14.6% decrease in flu vaccination uptake.
 - Among children (6 months - 17 years), this represents a 24% decrease in flu vaccination uptake.
 - Among adults, this represents a 12% decrease in flu vaccination uptake.

Continue to offer flu vaccine to your patients 6 months and older, as long as flu viruses are circulating. Avoid missed opportunities for vaccination, by offering vaccination during routine health care visits and hospitalizations.

MnVFC/UUAV flu vaccine still available to order

We still have flu vaccine available to order for this season for MnVFC eligible children and un- and underinsured adults. Flu providers can request additional flu doses for MnVFC/UUAV at any time in

MIIC. Refer to our user guide for step-by-step instructions: [Special Event Vaccine Request \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/specrequest.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/specrequest.pdf)

Thank you, vaccination providers!

As we mark one year of COVID-19 vaccination, we couldn't be more grateful for our vaccinating providers in Minnesota. You truly stepped up to vaccinate our state while utilizing all the best practices for providing vaccinations. While the clinical rigor of this response has been challenging, our providers have made an equally immense effort to document every dose of vaccine in the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC). We also thank you for assisting us in the tireless effort to redistribute vaccine. Between registering as providers, submitting vaccine requests, managing storage and handling, and helping with redistribution, your work has allowed us to distribute millions of doses throughout the state making viable vaccine readily available for every Minnesotan.

One year of COVID-19 vaccine in Minnesota, by the numbers

- 8,593,946 COVID-19 immunizations were reported to MIIC.
- Since January 2020, 2,447 providers enrolled in MIIC for the first time.
- Since distribution began, 6.7 million first and second doses have been shipped to Minnesota providers by MDH (not including Federal Retail Pharmacy Program [FRPP] doses).
- Nationally, 7% of the 572 million doses distributed were reported as wastage. In Minnesota, only 3.7% of the 6.7 million doses distributed were reported as wastage.

When Minnesotans needed you, you were there. With the utmost appreciation and gratitude, we want to thank you for being partners in this pandemic response and providing hope to all those we serve.