

Protect adults who have asthma from flu

About 48 percent of adults who have asthma received a flu vaccination last season. While this is significantly more than adults who don't have asthma (36.4 percent), it still means that more than half of adults with asthma go unprotected against flu. Patients who have asthma are at higher risk for complications from flu, even if their asthma is mild or well controlled. In fact, asthma is the most common medical condition among children hospitalized for flu and impacts about 20 percent of adults hospitalized for flu. We still have several weeks of flu season ahead of us, so make sure your patients with asthma get their flu vaccination!

What are your medical group's adolescent immunization rates?

Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) recently released a new *Preventive Health Measures* report (<http://mncm.org/reports-and-websites/reports-and-data/preventive-health-measures/>) that includes an adolescent immunization measure for timeliness of meningococcal, HPV, and Tdap vaccination by age 13 years. The HPV part of the measure looks at series completion. Among reporting medical groups, only about 26 percent of adolescents had received these recommended vaccines by age 13 years. The report notes that this average significantly increased from the previous reporting period (which was not publicly reported), but there is still work to be done, particularly around on-time HPV vaccination.

MNCM maintains an online dashboard called Minnesota HealthScores where the adolescent immunization measure in this report, along with other quality of care metrics, can be compared among reporting medical groups. Kudos to Mayo Clinic and South Lake Pediatrics for being the top medical groups with 64 percent and 63 percent (respectively) of their 13-year-old patients receiving their recommended vaccines. Check out adolescent vaccination rates for Minnesota medical groups at Detailed Report - Vaccinations: Adolescents (www.mnhealthscores.org/medical-group-measure-detail/vaccinations-adolescents/#/results).

Free educational app for HPV vaccine recommendations

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) launched a free educational app called HPV Vaccine: Same Way Same Day™. It provides brief, interactive role-play simulation that is designed to train health care providers on how to strongly recommend HPV vaccine and address parent concerns. Learn more about this resource at AAP's HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention (www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/HPV-Champion-Toolkit/Pages/Grand-Rounds.aspx) online toolkit.

Report adverse events to VAERS

Health care providers are required to report any and all events that require medical attention after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/index>). Report regardless of whether it is related to vaccination.

MDH website updates: Update your bookmarks!

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) website was recently updated, so content has moved to different categories and URLs (links) have changed. If you can't find something, try using the search bar to find what you need. Be sure to update any bookmarks to MDH web pages, such as the Immunization home page (www.health.state.mn.us/immunize/).

Immunization schedules are posted

The 2019 Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents and the Immunization Schedule for Adults are now available. You can find a link to the schedules on Immunization Best Practices (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/bestpractices.html) under the "Assess patients for needed vaccines section."

The adult catch-up schedule is no longer included with the Immunization Schedule for Adults. We have created a stand-alone guidance document that is posted with the link to the schedules. Print versions of the schedules will be available to order from us for free in March.

2018 MIIC highlights

In 2018, more organizations than ever relied on MIIC (www.health.state.mn.us/miic) to support their immunization activities. Here are a few highlights from the year:

- 99 percent of MnVFC sites ordered state-supplied vaccine through MIIC.
- 250 immunization quality improvement visits were conducted using MIIC data and tools.
- 183 licensed child care centers used MIIC's Child Care Reporting Assistance Program to complete their required immunization reporting.
- 10,000+ users participated in MIIC to help ensure Minnesotans get the right vaccines at the right times.

We look forward to another great year of MIIC programming in 2019! To learn more about how to use MIIC to support your immunization activities, visit MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/) or contact the MIIC Help Desk at health.miichelp@state.mn.us.

Get ready for National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of NIIW (April 27-May 4). NIIW is an important time to celebrate the success of immunizations and the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases.

We need your help to raise awareness about the importance of immunizations in every corner of the state. Start thinking about what your organization can do during NIIW. Find campaign resources on our National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/niiw.html) website.