

Test all suspect cases of varicella (chickenpox)

Providers should do laboratory testing to confirm all cases of varicella. Varicella cases have become more difficult to clinically diagnose because of the effectiveness of the varicella vaccine. Classic presentation of the rash is less common, and breakthrough disease (disease after someone has been vaccinated) can be difficult to differentiate between hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) and other rash illnesses. The exclusion periods for varicella and HFMD are different, and the post-exposure prophylaxis and public health recommendations differ as well. Testing children for varicella ensures they do not unnecessarily miss school and that their high-risk contacts, such as pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals, are cared for correctly.

Use PCR testing for all suspected varicella cases. PCR testing is available free of charge at the MDH Public Health Laboratory. See Laboratory Testing for Varicella (Chickenpox) and Zoster (Shingles) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/varicella/hcp/lab-testing.html) for information on how to collect and ship specimens to MDH. Report all cases of varicella to MDH, including suspect cases and those based on phone consultation.

Recognize a childhood immunization champion

Who is the “go-to” person in your clinic or organization for childhood immunization information? Who excels at talking to parents and fellow providers about vaccines? Nominate them for the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award!* Awardees will be recognized locally and nationally during National Infant Immunization Week (April 27 – May 4, 2019). Nominees can include health care professionals (physicians, nurses, medical assistants, etc.), coalition members, parents, and other immunization leaders. Nominations are due **Feb. 13, 2019**.

More information and a link to nomination materials can be found on CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/niw/champaward.html).

2019-20 MnVFC pediatric influenza vaccine prebook due Feb. 1

It’s time to order MnVFC influenza vaccine for the 2019-20 influenza season. The MnVFC program only provides influenza vaccine for eligible children age 18 years and younger. Influenza vaccine orders are due Feb. 1. To place an order, go to Ordering MDH Vaccine (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/vaxorder.html) and look for a link to the *2019-20 MnVFC Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Ordering Form*.

As of Jan. 23, 2019, the FDA approved the use of Fluzone 0.5ml for persons 6 months and older. Previous licensure was for persons 3 years and older. If your site already submitted a flu prebook order this year and you would like to change your order, please re-submit an order form with your new request by Feb. 1.

Give a VIS before vaccinating: It’s the law

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give all patients, or their parents or legal guardians, the appropriate VIS **before** giving vaccines. The VIS provides important information that all patients and/or their parents need to know about the disease, vaccine, and what to do in case of an adverse event. Get more information at Facts About VISs (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/about/facts-vis.html).

Clip and save 

Current VISs, January 2019 <i>(Changes from last quarter are in bold italics.)</i>	
Chickenpox	2/12/18
Cholera	7/6/17
DTaP/DT/DTP	8/24/18
Hepatitis A	7/20/16
Hepatitis B	10/12/18
Hib	4/2/15
HPV Gardasil-9	12/2/16
Influenza - TIV	8/7/15
Japanese encephalitis	1/24/14
Meningococcal (MCV4 & MPSV4)	8/24/18
Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB)	8/9/16
MMR	2/12/18
MMRV	2/12/18
Multi-vaccine	11/5/15
PCV13	11/5/15
PPSV23	4/24/15
Polio	7/20/16
Rabies	10/6/09
Rotavirus	2/23/18
Shingles/Zoster (live)	2/12/18
Shingles/Zoster (recombinant)	2/12/18
Td	4/11/17
Tdap	2/24/15
Typhoid	5/29/12
Yellow Fever	3/30/11

PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor – an app you can use

What pneumococcal vaccine or vaccines do you give to a 55-year-old patient who just had a splenectomy? There’s an app for that! The *PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor* app was created by CDC to help providers determine which pneumococcal vaccine to give and when. The app is available for both Android and iOS devices. Learn more at PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor Mobile App for Vaccine Providers (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/pneumoapp.html).

Call for nominations: 2019 NAIIS Immunization Excellence Awards

The National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) is accepting nominations for the 2019 NAIIS Immunization Excellence Awards. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improving adult for flu vaccination rates in 2018. Nominations are due Feb. 15, 2019. Learn more at Call for Nominations! 2019 NAIIS Immunization Excellence Awards (www.izsummitpartners.org/call-for-nominations-2019-naiis-immunization-excellence-awards/).