

Trends in vaccination during the pandemic

In June's *Got Your Shots? News* we described the gap in vaccine doses administered to infants and young children (less than 24 months) when comparing weekly totals in 2019 to 2020. Progress is being made to return to routine levels of vaccination, but there is still work to do to provide catch-up in this young age group.

There's also a lot of work to be done with vaccination for school-age children and adolescents. We recently analyzed data from MIIC during January-June 2020 compared with the same period in 2019 for these age groups. The decreases in doses administered following the state's stay at home order were more dramatic in school-age children and adolescents than for very young children. We found that the number of routine childhood doses administered for children age 4-6 years decreased by 34% and the number of routine adolescent doses administered for adolescents 11-12 years decreased by 32%. Put another way, about 50,000 fewer doses have been administered so far in 2020 when compared to the same time frame in 2019.

Returning to normal vaccination activity levels for school-age children and adolescents has been slow. With back-to-school fast approaching, we need help from all partners to get students up to date.

We are asking schools to continue to enforce the current immunization laws. Clinics and providers can help by calling in children entering kindergarten and seventh grade to get caught up before learning begins this fall.

Resources for vaccination during COVID-19

- Visit our Vaccination During COVID-19 (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/vaxpan.html) page for weekly updates on MMR vaccination data and resources to assist in outreach to families to let them know it is safe to return for well child visits.
- Refer to CDC's Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance) for additional tips on raising immunization rates.
- See CDC's new Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities), particularly as flu season approaches.
- Work with your MIIC regional coordinator to conduct reminder/recall of your patients so they can catch-up on vaccines they may have missed. Find their contact information on MIIC Regions and Regional Coordinators (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/regions.html).

New meningococcal quadrivalent vaccine

FDA recently licensed a third conjugate quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine for persons 2 years and older. The product, called Menquadfi, includes serogroups A, C, W, and Y. It is also the first conjugate quadrivalent vaccine licensed for persons over age 55 years. It can be used whenever MenACWY vaccination is indicated, including routine adolescent vaccination. The manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, anticipates it will be available in 2021.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

Use this opportunity to remind people in all age groups that immunizations are important for protecting our communities from dangerous diseases. CDC has updated the NIAAM digital communication toolkits with resources for partners. You can find them on CDC's National Immunization Awareness Month site (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam). We will also be sharing messages about immunizations on MDH social media accounts throughout August. We encourage you to share these messages and resources throughout the month of August using the hashtag #ivax2protect.

MIIC tips: Keep your account active and new security feature

- Make sure to keep your MIIC account active! MIIC accounts that are not used for 60 days will go inactive.
- Beginning July 8:
 - Ten days before a user account will go inactive, the email address we have on file for that account will receive an automated email from miichelp@state.mn.us reminding the user that they should log in if they wish to keep their account active.
 - You will be prompted to set up security questions the first time you log in after July 8. These will be used for a new "Forgot Password" function coming in the near future. You will not be able to use MIIC until you have set up your security questions, so plan to complete this step the next time you log in if you have not already.

Vaccine shipment reminders

Many clinics have different hours or policies during COVID-19. Be aware of these changes at your site to make sure vaccine shipments are handled appropriately and avoid having vaccine orders left unattended.

- Routinely check drop-off locations throughout the day and especially before leaving for the day.
- Allow ample time for your vaccine orders and ensure there is sufficient inventory on hand to cover if there is a delay.
- Post visible signs outside of your clinic if doors are locked during business hours so delivery drivers know what to do with the package (e.g., knock on the door or leave the package on the doorstep).
- Signatures may not be required for packages delivered by FedEx and UPS right now. Drivers should still capture the recipient's name by entering it manually, or they may leave the package without entering a name if a signature is already on file.