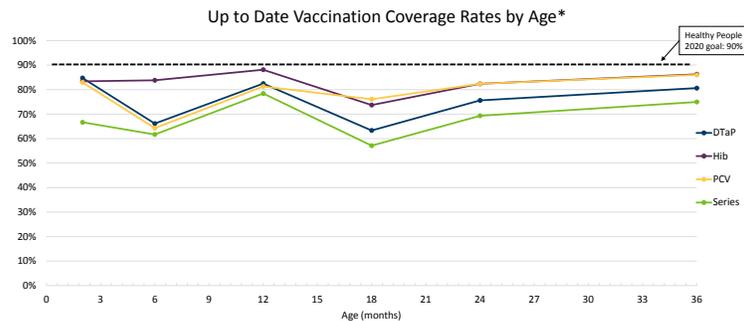


## National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is April 27 - May 4, 2019

### Vaccinate on time, every time

NIIW is a great opportunity to celebrate the success of immunizations and raise awareness about the importance of immunizations in your community. It's also a time to evaluate how we're doing at making sure all children in Minnesota are up to date on their immunizations.

The recommended immunization schedule is set up to provide infants and children with protection from 14 life-threatening diseases early in life when they are most vulnerable. Data from the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) shows that we're doing a good job of immunizing babies in the first year of life, but coverage drops a bit in the second year of life particularly for vaccines that require booster doses.



There could be a lot of reasons for a parent to delay or skip an immunization or well-child visit. We want to do what we can to help parents get their babies immunized on time.

Here's what you can do...

### Know your rates

Use the MIIC to assess immunization rates for your patient population. Run MIIC's Childhood Immunization Summary Report to see whether your patients are completing the childhood immunization series on time. You can run this report for all patients in a particular age range who are associated with your organization in MIIC, or on a specific list of patients you serve.

Once you've run the report, review the information to identify any opportunities for improvement. Run the report at regular intervals over time to monitor any changes. Find more information on the MIIC Immunization Assessment ([www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html)) web page.

### Implement improvement strategies

- Conduct reminder/recall.
  - Reminder/recall is a process for reaching out to patients due (reminder) or overdue (recall) for immunizations. You can send reminder/recall notices by mail, email, phone call, or text message.

- MIIC has a feature called "Client Follow-Up" that supports reminder/recall efforts. This feature helps you identify patients due or overdue for immunizations and provides several tools that can help you follow up.
- Find more information about this feature at Client Follow-Up ([www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html)).
- Some clinics can also conduct reminder/recall using features in their electronic health record (EHR) or phone systems.
- Provide walk-in or immunization-only visits.
  - Walk-in or immunization-only visits offered in the late afternoon, evening, and weekend hours allow families to fit quick, unplanned appointments into their busy schedules.
  - These appointments not only provide more opportunities for immunization, but they often result in lower out-of-pocket costs than regular clinic appointments.
- Don't miss an opportunity to immunize!
  - Assess for all recommended immunizations at every visit.
  - Be sure to screen for contraindications before giving a vaccine, but remember that children can get most vaccines even if they have a mild illness.

Get more information about these and other strategies on the American Academy of Pediatrics' Strategies to Improve Immunization Rates ([www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Practice-Management/Pages/Strategies-to-Improve-Immunization-Rates.aspx](http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Practice-Management/Pages/Strategies-to-Improve-Immunization-Rates.aspx)) website.

### Participate in immunization quality improvement programming

Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) is a CDC program to promote and support implementing quality improvement (QI) strategies to increase vaccine uptake among children and adolescents. IQIP will replace CDC's AFIX program on July 1, 2019.

IQIP provides face to face technical assistance as well as phone and email support for QI strategies. All primary care providers who immunize are eligible for this exciting program. Contact **Health.AFIX.Mailbox@state.mn.us** for more information.

### Celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)!

- Find campaign resources on our NIIW website ([www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/niiw.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/niiw.html)).
- Connect with MDH on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/mnhealth](http://www.facebook.com/mnhealth)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/mnhealth](http://www.twitter.com/mnhealth)), and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/mnhealth](http://www.instagram.com/mnhealth)) to share immunization messages during NIIW and beyond.
- Use CDC's NIIW Digital Media Toolkit ([www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/web-etools/digital-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/web-etools/digital-toolkit.html)) to find more events happening during the week that you can participate in.