

Share why you vaccinate during National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), Dec. 1-7, 2019, is the perfect time to remind patients that it's not too late to get their flu vaccine. This year, we particularly want to focus on making sure children are vaccinated. Last flu season (2018-19), only about 64% of Minnesota children age 6 months through 17 years received a flu vaccine.

"Preventing influenza in children protects them from getting sick and, just as importantly, it helps protect those around them in school and their community. Children are good at many things and that includes spreading infections. Because influenza activity can continue into May, it is important not to let our guard down and think it's too late to vaccinate. Every single year, children die from influenza. Most of the deaths are in children who did not receive the vaccine. I have had patients in my practice develop pneumonia from influenza and have to be admitted to the hospital. This is scary for children and scary for parents."

-- Dr. DeFrance, a pediatrician at Essentia Health in Duluth and president of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP).

During NIVW, we are teaming up with MNAAP to encourage health care providers to share why they vaccinate on social media. We want families across the state to know that flu vaccination is safe, effective, and recommended. Use the hashtag #WhyIVaccinate and share your reasons during the week. You can also follow MDH and MNAAP on social media to share our messages. For more information and resources, visit the MDH National Influenza Vaccination Week (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/hcp/vaccine/nivw/) website. See CDC's Make a Strong Flu Vaccine Recommendation (www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/flu-vaccine-recommendation.htm) website for tips on talking to families.

Minnesota's 2019 HPV vaccination champion

Dr. Andrea Singh, department chair of pediatrics and co-lead of the Children's Health Initiative at HealthPartners and Park Nicollet, has received Minnesota's 2019 HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award for her work to promote human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and its power to prevent cancer. In Minnesota, only about 42% of 13-15 year olds have completed the recommended HPV vaccination series. However, among Dr. Singh's patients age 13-15 years, 60% have completed the HPV vaccine series and she strives to protect more teens from HPV-related cancers. Congratulations to Dr. Singh! Read more about her work and the other HPV champions from around the country at HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award Winner Spotlights (www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/winner-spotlights.html).

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Td/Tdap recommendation change

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently voted to recommend that either Td or Tdap may be used in the following situations:

- Giving booster doses every 10 years.
- Providing tetanus vaccination for wound management.
- When providing catch-up vaccination for persons 7 years and older who have not completed the Td/Tdap primary series.

These recommendations are pending publication. We will notify you when they've been published.

As a reminder, in the most recent pertussis recommendations (April 2018), ACIP recommended that if a child received Tdap between the ages of 7 through 9 years, another Tdap at age 11-12 years is recommended.

MnVFC and UUAV updates

- **Holiday shipping schedule.** Due to the upcoming holidays, MnVFC and UUAV vaccine orders will not be processed Tuesday, Nov. 26 through Friday, Nov. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 11 through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. Please plan ahead!
- **Shipments during extremely cold temperatures.** Vaccine orders may be postponed during periods of extremely cold temperatures or dangerous road conditions to ensure vaccine is not damaged. Please consider the possibility of delays when placing your orders.
- **Additional influenza vaccine available to order.** MnVFC and UUAV influenza vaccine is still available to order for the 2019-20 season.
 - To order additional pediatric influenza vaccine doses, go to the Ordering MDH Vaccine (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/vaxorder.html) website and complete the online order form.
 - To order additional adult influenza vaccine doses, go to the Uninsured and Underinsured Adult Vaccine Program (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/uuav/) website and complete the online order form.

Check out the updated child care immunization data

The child care immunization data on our website now includes data from the 2018. The Minnesota Immunization Law requires children age 2 months and older that are enrolled in a licensed child care center to have received certain immunizations or file a legal exemption. Child care centers are required to submit an annual report to MDH summarizing the immunization status of the children in their center. You can view summaries of the child care data by state, county, and child care center. The majority of Minnesotan children are vaccinated; however, there are pockets of under vaccinated children throughout the state. Use this data to see what the rates are in your area. View the data on the Child Care Immunization Data (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/childcare/) website.