

Adolescent COVID-19 vaccine data still lagging

COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates for Minnesotan adolescents lag behind coverage levels for adults 18 and older. As of November 21, 61.7% of 12- to 17-year-olds had received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, with a range of 72.1% first dose coverage in the seven-county metro region to a low of 40.6% in greater Minnesota regions.

Further, Minnesotans living in the highest disadvantaged ZIP codes have lower COVID-19 vaccine coverage (by about 9%) compared to adolescents living in the least disadvantaged ZIP codes.

It's important to continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccine to adolescents and use MIIC reminder/recall tools to bring in those still unvaccinated. Like all of us, teens want to get back to the things they love. All Minnesotans 12-17 who have completed their two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series at any time in 2021 are eligible for a \$100,000 college scholarship from the state of Minnesota. Learn more at Kids Deserve a Shot! (mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaccine-rewards/kids-deserve-a-shot/index.jsp). For more information about COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates in Minnesota, please refer to COVID-19 Vaccine Data (mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/data/index.jsp).

COVID-19 vaccination for children 5 to 11 years

FDA authorized and CDC recommended Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years in early November. This is another step toward building immunity in our communities. The product is a smaller dose than the Pfizer vaccine for people 12 years and older and is packaged with an orange cap. Many parents trust the recommendation from their health care provider. When parents bring their kids in for this season's flu vaccine, start their COVID-19 vaccine series at the same time. Find more information on vaccinating 5- to 11-year-olds at COVID-19 Vaccine Providers (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/provider.html).

Booster doses for anyone 18 and older

All three COVID-19 vaccine products received authorization for booster doses among people 18 years and older. There is no longer a need to determine if a person is in a certain risk group; give them a booster if it has been 6 months since completing the mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) series, or 2 months since receiving the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) initial dose. Any of the products can be given without regard to what product a person originally received.

Ensure that those that would benefit the greatest from a booster are coming in to get theirs. This includes people 50 years and older and people that received the Janssen vaccine.

Very important: Sending complete and up-to-date demographic information

The Docket mobile app is available for Minnesotans to access their MIIC immunization records and has become extremely popular. Be aware that Docket requires up-to-date demographic data for a person to access their records, and the MIIC Data Use Agreement requires that providers resolve discrepant data and immunization information. In order to ensure that people have access to their data, please remember to do the following:

1. Each time a client receives services at your organization, please confirm the following, and that the update is sent to MIIC. This includes first/last name, middle name, phone number, residential address, email address and mother's maiden name.
 - Note: Please do not send 999-999-9999 or 000-000-0000 as a phone number.
2. If the client is not receiving health services but requests an update to their demographic information in MIIC, please update their record. Authorized MIIC users may directly update information. Ensure that at least one person at your organization has access to the MIIC user interface to complete this work. If you need to add a MIIC user, please either contact your organization administrator or contact the MIIC Help Desk (health.miichelp@state.mn.us).

Learn more about Docket at Find My Immunization Record (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/records.html).

Late season flu vaccine promotion

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) will be observed December 5-11, 2021. NIVW is a national awareness week focused on highlighting the importance of influenza (flu) vaccination; reminding everyone 6 months and older that there's still time to get a flu vaccine.

CDC's digital media toolkit, featuring resources, vaccination messages, and activities that can be used to share key flu information with your networks is available at National Influenza Vaccination Week (www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/nivw/index.htm).

Throughout December, MDH will be sharing social media messages about flu and flu vaccine and will re-release the *Band Together Against the Flu* media campaign.

Flucelvax age expansion

Flucelvax is now approved for patients 6 months and older.

Current VISs

CDC released the last four Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) on October 15 to finish up the finalization of the interim VISs. The changes were minimal and providers are encouraged to begin using these updated VISs immediately, but stocks of the previous editions may be used until exhausted.

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give all patients, or their parents or legal guardians, the appropriate VIS **before** the person is vaccinated. Check to make sure you have the most Current VISs (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html) for your practice.

The VISs that were updated:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Multi-vaccines pediatric
- Rotavirus

Find translated versions at IAC Vaccine Information Statements (www.immunize.org/vis/).