

Pediatric vaccination gap

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) continues to monitor the gap in pediatric immunization coverage among children and adolescents. This immunization gap is a result of COVID-19 stay at home orders earlier this spring, which led to families deferring preventive care, and in some cases, reduced clinic hours or clinics being closed. Looking back over the last four weeks for school-aged children, the overall number of doses administered by week increased each week. This was expected during back-to-school time. However, the gap in weekly doses administered remained and slightly widened for 4-6 year olds and 11-12 year olds when comparing this year to last year.

Currently, in looking at recommended doses needed for HPV, MenACWY, and Tdap by 11-12 years of age, we are behind by approximately 65,000 doses statewide when comparing January to August of 2019 to 2020. Similarly, for children 4-6 years of age for all recommended doses, we are behind by over 46,000 doses for the same time frame.

Schools are facing a lot this fall as a result of the pandemic. It is likely that schools are behind in collecting school immunization records for entry requirements. As schools continue to collect records, we would expect the immunization gap to continue to decrease as families get their children up-to-date on missed immunizations. Here are some action items that partners can do to continue to address this important problem:

- Promote the MnVFC program to families, especially those who may be newly eligible.
- Reassure families that it is safe to return to their clinic for vaccinations and well-child care.
- Consider innovative ways to safely bring needed vaccination out to communities in most need (e.g., mobile vaccination units, school-located vaccination, etc.).
- Use MIIC to call in children due or overdue for routine vaccinations to get caught up. Visit Immunizations (www.mnaap.org/work-groups/immunizations/) to view the recently recorded Immunization Work Group MIIC Training (<https://vimeo.com/359313235>). This MNAAP webinar covers MIIC reminder/recall functionality.
- For more information, visit Vaccination During COVID-19 (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/vaxpan.html).

Put your clinic on VaccineFinder

Do you vaccinate on a walk-in basis or have vaccine available for members of the public? List your services on VaccineFinder.org. Providers can sign up for an account at Register to List Your Organization (<https://locating.health/register>). VaccineFinder is the main tool used by CDC and MDH to direct the public to locations where they can receive vaccines if they do not have a regular health care provider. The site now lists pediatric and adult vaccines as well as some medications like antivirals. It can be a very useful tool during flu season.

Fall flu guide is here

The *2020-21 Minnesota Fall Flu Guide* is posted on Influenza Vaccine Information for Health Professionals (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/hcp/vaccine/). The updated influenza vaccine protocol templates are also currently posted!

COVID-19 vaccine: What to expect

With growing news reports about COVID-19 vaccine, we will provide updates to Minnesota providers through *Got Your Shots? News* as we are able.

Currently there are six vaccines in U.S. clinical trials. The U.S. pathway to FDA licensure includes the requirement to submit research data from three phases of research called clinical trials. Three of the U.S. COVID-19 vaccines are in the third phase, and the other three are in either the first or the second phase. FDA uses the following factors to license a vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines:

- Efficacy (making sure the vaccine works).
- Longer term safety data.
- Evidence that the vaccine being produced uses good manufacturing practices.

MDH is developing plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Expect to hear more information as we get more guidance from the federal level. We know that initially, vaccine will come to Minnesota in very small amounts. These limited doses of vaccine will go to priority groups determined by national guidance. MDH will be starting an advisory group to provide input to how the national guidance will be implemented in Minnesota.

Curious about your immunization rates? Use the MIIC Assessment Reports!

COVID-19 has impacted routine care for everyone. Use MIIC's Assessment Reports to see this impact on 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 the Adolescent Summary Report to see how your adolescent population is measuring up to national standards. The Adult Summary Reports shows you how your practice is protecting adults of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, with a tough respiratory disease season ahead of us, you can run the Single Vaccine Assessment report to assess your whole patient population for the influenza vaccine.

You can run these reports 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. If you have a large number of patients, make sure you leave plenty of time to run the report or run it in off-business hours. 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 at Immunization Assessment: MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html).