**Minutes**

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Massachusetts Vaccine Purchasing Advisory Council (MVPAC) Meeting**

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019  
Time: 4-6 PM  
Location: Massachusetts Medical Society, 860 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451

**Council Member Attendees:**

Kevin Cranston, MDiv

Lloyd Fisher, MD

Thomas Hines, MD

Susan Lett, MD, MPH

H. Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP

Ronald Samuels, MD, MPH

Zi Zhang

**Additional Attendees:**

Richard Aceto

Tom Ameras

Daniel Jones

Cynthia McReynolds

Sherry Schilb

Jessica Sokola

Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH

**DPH Updates**Mr. Cranston opened the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Cranston announced some organizational changes. The Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, which is within the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, is now two separate Divisions, Epidemiology and Immunization. Larry Madoff, MD, is the Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. Pat Kludt, BS, MPH, is the Director of the Epidemiology Division, and Pejman Talebian, MD, MPH, is Director of the Immunization Division. Susan Lett, MD, MPH, is Medical Director of the Immunization Division.

It is budget season in the Massachusetts legislature. Governor Baker has filed his Fiscal Year 2020 House 1 budget, which includes level funding of the immunization line item. The funding from the state vaccine account only provides vaccine funding for uninsured adults vaccinated at public sites (CHCs, BOHs). Pediatric vaccines are purchased out of the Vaccine Trust Fund. At this time, the Fund cannot take voluntary contributions. The House and Senate will be acting on a change in language to allow additional voluntary contributions.

The Immunization Division is completing an application for renewal of its cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant provides funding for state health departments to support immunization program operations. This is a renewal of a new 5 year funding cycle.

In November 2018, a patient was diagnosed with measles at the Lowell Community Health Center, which resulted in an exposure at the large community health center. The response was well-coordinated through the cooperation of the MDPH, Lowell Department of Health, Lowell General Hospital, the Medical Reserve Corps and the health center. Several hundred people were identified, contacted and vaccinated. To date this year, no measles cases have been diagnosed as of today. There have been import cases which have passed through Massachusetts, but no secondary cases have been diagnosed.

**2019 Childhood Immunization Schedule review**

Dr. Lett reviewed the 2019 childhood immunization schedule through a virtual tour of the online schedule. DPH is encouraging providers to use the online schedule as much as possible, and the “CDC Vaccine Schedules App,” which can be downloaded to iOS and Android devices for free.

Dr. Lett reviewed each of the tabs, noting the following:

* Schedule by age (Table 1) – includes helpful links from the vaccines directly to the Notes;
* Catch-up schedule (Table 2) – is simplified and displayed more clearly, but has better details, including vaccine guidance catch-up job aids;
* Medical conditions (Table 3) – has better definitions of the legends (colors);

Changes to this year’s schedule by vaccine were reviewed. Some highlights include:

For Hepatitis A Vaccine: Homelessness has been added as an indication. A section for international travel has also been added with recommendation for vaccination of travelers 6-11 months and unvaccinated travelers aged ≥12 months. The HepA note was revised to include information regarding the use of combined HepA-HepB vaccine in persons aged ≥18 years.

For Outbreaks: Related to mumps and meningococcal outbreaks, the “Additional Information” section at the beginning of the vaccine notes directs providers to their state or local health department for information regarding vaccinations during an outbreak. Therefore language regarding the use of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine in the setting of an outbreak or the use of Meningococcal (Groups A, C, W-135, and Y) conjugate (MenACWY) and Meningococcal Group B (MenB) vaccines in the setting of meningococcal disease outbreaks has been removed from the MMR and meningococcal vaccine notes.

* The Parent-Friendly Schedule tab has parent-friendly schedules in English and Spanish, and additional resources for parents and adults.
* Resources for healthcare providers have helpful links, such as how to report disease outbreaks and adverse events.

The schedule “Notes” includes links to ACIP [recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/) and the [General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html)

**February 2019 ACIP Meeting update**

Dr. Lett provided an update from the February meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). After deliberation, the ACIP voted on Japanese encephalitis and anthrax. The ACIP recommendations will become official, once they have been adopted by the CDC Director and published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

The Committee also discussed, but took no votes on the following vaccines: human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, influenza vaccine, combination (hexavalent) vaccines, pneumococcal vaccines, meningococcal B vaccines, zoster vaccines and hepatitis A vaccines.

The ACIP will meet next on June 26-June 27, 2019.

**Review of current DPH pediatric vaccine formulary**

Further to the Council request for annual review of the DPH pediatric vaccine formulary, a 2018 formulary report was distributed for review. The report detailed the total doses distributed and market share by vaccine type.

It was noted that 2018 relative market share had not changed much, except when vaccine shortages occurred. Through provider choice, systems have been put in place to support providers during a vaccine shortage. Both DPH and the Council continue to support provider choice where appropriate.

While the Hepatitis B shortage affected market share of DtaP and monovalent Hepatitis B vaccine, DPH was able to absorb national Hepatitis B vaccine cuts until September 2018. With the shortage expected to continue until the end of 2019, there may be more of a shift in market share. DPH has not changed its recommendation for administration of Hepatitis B vaccine during this shortage and encourage providers to follow the recommended options outlined in the November 2018 advisory.

The total number of HPV doses as detailed in the table is incorrect. The number of doses is 211,133.

**Discussion regarding future topics for consideration**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2019.

Council members should send agenda items to Pejman Talebian. A decision will be made in May as to whether a June meeting is needed.

A suggestion was made that the Council complete an annual review of flu vaccine at its October meeting.

It was noted that to date, the Council has not deliberated about choice around vaccine packaging.

With potential changes in packaging, this may be an item for future Council deliberation.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

June 13, 2019

October 10, 2019

March 12, 2020

June 11, 2020

MVPAC webpage:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/immunization/mvpac.html>