



# MDPH Immunization Division Newsletter



Volume I, 2020/2021

Spring/Summer

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## Immunization During COVID-19

### *From the Vaccine Unit*

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on clinical preventive services, including routine immunizations. Based on data from the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), state-supplied vaccine ordering has decreased by as much as 60%. The MDPH Immunization Division supports healthcare providers who maintain access to clinical services in environments that are safe for all. The following CDC guidance shares strategies for addressing well-child and sick visits while maintaining immunization services, and addresses proper storage and handling of state-supplied vaccines during COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

## 2020-2021 State-Supplied Flu Vaccine Schedule

Preparing for 2020-2021 flu season:

- 2020-2021 state-supplied flu vaccine allocations will be based on site's state-supplied flu vaccine usage as of June 26, 2020.
- All state-supplied flu vaccine has expired as of June 30. Providers should process a 'Storage and Handling' issue in the MIIS, to return state-supplied flu vaccine to the distributor and clear flu vaccine from your inventory in the MIIS. This will allow the Vaccine Unit to upload 2020-2021 flu vaccine ceiling limits.
- Please remember, the Vaccine Management Unit always allows sites to order above their flu ceiling limit as long as they demonstrate a need by reporting usage.

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## Flu Vaccine Dates to Remember

**June 30:** All 2019-2020 flu expired June 30. Process a '[Storage/Handling Issue](#)' in the MIIS to return flu vaccine. This will also clear your virtual inventory of last year's flu vaccine.

**July 2:** See the allocation and change request email we sent on 7/2 to Primary and Back-Up Vaccine Coordinators. The allocation is based on 2019-20 usage. Primary and Back-up Vaccine Coordinators will have two weeks to submit changes to the allocation.

**July 17:** Deadline for 2020-2021 Flu vaccine change request. All requests must be submitted via email.

**August 1:** An email confirming site's allocation and flu ceiling limit will be sent to the Primary and Back-Up Vaccine Coordinators.

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## Helpful Resources for Catch-Up Vaccination

*Katie Reilly, Immunization Nurse Manager*

As you focus your efforts on catching up children that are behind on their routine immunization due to COVID-19, we wanted to be sure you are aware of some helpful resources. These resources from the CDC can be utilized to catch kids up in a quick, safe manner.

Recently released by the CDC is the Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic. It reviews strategies for catch-up vaccination, including the use of reminder and recall to identify patients who are due for or have missed vaccine doses. Your electronic record system and/or the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) can help support this work. As stated in the guidance, healthcare providers should identify children who have missed well-child visits and/or recommended vaccinations and contact parents to schedule in-person appointments, starting with newborns, infants and children up to 24 months, young children, and extending through adolescence.

When catching kids up on their vaccines, there are two important factors that need to be considered: minimum age the dose of vaccine can be given and minimum interval between vaccine doses in a series. To find the minimum age a dose of vaccine can be given, and the minimum interval to the next dose, the CDC Minimum Age and Interval Table, found in Appendix A of the CDC Pink Book, can be consulted. For each dose of routinely recommended childhood vaccine, the table outlines: recommended age, minimum age, recommended interval, and minimum interval.

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## Helpful Resources for Catch-Up Vaccination

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Another important resource is the [Table 2. Catch-up immunization schedule for persons aged 4 months–18 years who start late or who are more than 1 month behind, United States, 2020](#)

CDC has also created vaccine specific Catch-Up Guidance Job Aids that are extremely helpful and can be printed out and hung in your med room:

- [Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine \(PCV\)](#)
- [Haemophilus influenzae type B Vaccines: ActHIB, Pentacel, Hiberix, or Unknown](#)
- [Haemophilus influenzae type b Vaccines: PedvaxHIB Vaccine Only](#)
- [Inactivated Polio Vaccine \(IPV\)](#)
- [Diphtheria-, Tetanus-, and Pertussis-Containing Vaccines: DTaP/DT \(Kids 4 months-4 years\)](#)
- [Tetanus-, Diphtheria-, and Pertussis-Containing Vaccines: Tdap/Td: \(Kids 7-9 years old\)](#)
- [Tetanus-, Diphtheria-, and Pertussis-Containing Vaccines: Tdap/Td \(Kids 10-18 years old\)](#)

Additional recommendations from the CDC:

- Visit [Resources for Encouraging Vaccinations During COVID-19 Pandemic](#), for a series of resources, including key messages, social media posts, and a web feature, Well-Child Visits are Essential. Consider using these materials in educational outreach to parents via social media channels, newsletters, or website.
- Help support parents' vaccine decisions through sharing resources from our [Vaccinate with Confidence](#) framework, including resources on [effective vaccine conversations](#) and [creating a culture of immunization in the practice](#).
- Review updated [influenza vaccine recommendations](#) as they become available and identify strategies to improve influenza vaccination coverage, especially among those at [high risk for influenza complications](#) in order to reduce the overall burden of respiratory illnesses and protect vulnerable populations and the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Immunization Action Coalition has created a [Repository of Resources for Maintaining Immunization during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), which is most helpful!

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing! If you have any additional questions related to immunization, please reach out to your MDPH Regional Immunization Nurse:

- Laurie Courtney — Metro Boston & Central Region, 617-983-6811, [laurie.a.courtney@state.ma.us](mailto:laurie.a.courtney@state.ma.us)
- Denise Dillon — Northeast, 978-851-7261, [denise.dillon@state.ma.us](mailto:denise.dillon@state.ma.us)
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# Twenty-fifth Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference



We held the 25th annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference April 14, for 153 online attendees. Our featured speakers included Dr. Carolyn Bridges (IAC), Dr. Mark Freedman (CDC), and Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Jr. (MDPH). We also held the popular breakout sessions, which included the Epidemiology of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Immunization 101, MIIS, Vaccinating High-Risk Adults, and Vaccine Storage and Handling. You'll find the presentations and other Conference materials [here](#).

## Adult Immunization Champion Award Winner

We recognized Jessica Prince, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer of the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, as the recipient of the 2020 Adult Immunization Champion Award. Read more about Ms. Prince [here](#).

## 2020 Immunization Updates

Like the Conference, we held this year's Immunization Updates online, and added a webinar on Vaccine Confidence. We thank the 1,600 attendees for participating and appreciate your flexibility for the online presentations. For your convenience, we've posted the presentations (please see the links below). If you have additional questions, please call 617-983-6800.

### Immunization Updates Webinars:

- [MIIS](#)
- [Vaccine-preventable Diseases in Massachusetts](#)
- [2020 Immunization Schedule Updates](#)
- [Vaccine Confidence](#)

### VFC Certificate

Vaccine Coordinators and Backups can earn their Vaccines For Children (VFC) Certificate with the Vaccine Storage & Handling webinar, located [here](#).



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[www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm)

## School Immunization Survey Data

The School Immunization Survey is one of the most important tools we use to monitor immunization trends among children over time. Results, by state, county and school, from the current 2019-2020 survey are posted to the [mass.gov](http://mass.gov) website.

Overall, immunization coverage rates among students in kindergarten and grade seven are similarly high and exemption rates are similarly low compared with years past, although we do know that there are regions and local areas with pockets of higher exemption rates which makes them more vulnerable to vaccine-preventable disease.

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## Immunization Bits & Pieces

**Save the dates for our upcoming conferences!**

### 25th Annual MIAP Pediatric Immunization Skills Building Conference

October 22, 2020

Updated conference information will be posted as it becomes available.

<https://mcaap.org/immunization-initiative/immunization-cme/>



### 26th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

<https://maic.jsi.com>



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## Need Help?

### Vaccine Management Unit

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