

ADULT FLU VACCINE SURVEY

A huge thank you to the 69 practices that completed our recent survey on adult flu vaccination!

Based on your responses and input from the Immunization Funding Advisory Committee, the Immunization Program will make adult flu vaccine available to VFA enrolled practices for the 2019-2020 flu season. See the article *Adult Influenza Vaccine 2019-20* in this issue for more information.

Findings: 80% of respondents said that their practice would order flu vaccine for adults 19-64 years through the VFA program, if offered next year. Survey responses are providing valuable information to our program as we begin planning for the 2019-20 season. We received many enthusiastic comments and also heard a few concerns which we will work to fully address.

VFC/VFA RE-ENROLLMENT BEGINS JANUARY 2ND

State-supplied vaccine is purchased through the Health Department Immunization Program with federal and health insurer funding. In order to receive federal funding through the CDC, every Vaccine for Children (VFC) practice must re-enroll by February 1, 2019. The state-run Vaccine for Adult (VFA) Program follows the CDC requirements.

On January 2nd, your practice will receive an email, from the Vermont Immunization Program through Survey Gizmo (invite@mail.surveygizmo.com). This e-mail will contain a personalized link to the 2019-2021- VFC/VFA enrollment form. The primary vaccine contact at each practice is the only person who will receive the re-enrollment email with the personalized link. The vaccine contact will need to gather additional information (population served, insurance status, etc.) before completing the enrollment in Survey Gizmo.

Concurrent with Re-Enrollment this year, practices enrolled in VFA will be asked if they would like to order adult influenza vaccine through the program during the 2019-20 season and to estimate how many doses they will need. For more information, *Adult Influenza Vaccine 2019-20* in this issue.

Contact the Immunization Program by email or phone if you do not receive the link January 2nd.

REGISTRY UPDATE: NEW QUARTERLY REPORTS

Since 2015, the Immunization Registry has been mailing Quarterly Reports to all Vermont primary practices serving persons under age 18. The reports provide confidential practice specific aggregate data with a comparison to statewide rates. The first report provided detail about HPV vaccine rates. In 2012 an additional report providing rates for the 7-vaccine series (4314314) for children ages 19-35 months was added. Practices have used these reports for quality improvement projects and to increase their immunization coverage rates.

Beginning in 2019, the child coverage assessment will be expanded to include Hepatitis A rates. Also new, a "Big Three" teen report comparing HPV, Meningococcal, and Tdap coverage in patients aged 13, 14 and 15. You can expect to see the first of these in early February.

These reports are sent to the person at your practice who is designated as the quality improvement person. Please let us know at (888) 688-4667 if someone at your practice needs this report and is not receiving it.

NOMINATE A CHAMPION

Young children rely on the champions in their lives to keep them safe and healthy.

The CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award is an annual award given jointly by the [CDC Foundation](#) and CDC to recognize individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. Those champions may be parents who keep a record of their child's vaccinations and ask at each doctor appointment whether their child is up-to-date on immunizations. And, those champions may also be doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and other healthcare professionals who ensure that the children in their care receive all the recommended vaccines.

Each year, an CDC Immunization Champion from each of the 50 states, 8 U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia is honored. [See the 2018 CDC Immunization Champions.](#)

2019 Nominations will be sought in early 2019. Be thinking about who you'd like to nominate!

VACCINE SUPPLY UPDATES

SHINGRIX

While GSK has said that consumers should start seeing an increased supply of Shingrix in 2019, there is no indication of just how long Vermont's monthly allocations of the vaccine will continue to fall short of customer demand. Until the supply is significantly increased, the Immunization Program will continue to distribute doses to practices ordering within their assigned schedule and with fewer than 10 doses remaining in their inventories.

The Washington Post recently published a [synopsis](#) of the shortage from a national perspective that contains some excellent talking points.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has issued the following clinical guidance:

If more than 6 months have elapsed since the first dose, administer the second dose when possible. Do not restart the vaccine series. The Immunization Action Coalition provides answers to this and many other administration related questions in their [Ask the Experts forum](#).

HEPLISAV-B

The CDC notified state health departments that this new Hepatitis B vaccine for adults will be available for practices to order beginning in January 2019. Vermont practices who chose to carry this vaccine in July's Annual Vaccine Brand Choice survey should see this product in their VIMS catalogs by January 3rd.