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# Vermont Immunization Bulletin

February 2020

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## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Staffing Changes at the Immunization Program

#### Welcome Merideth!

We are pleased to announce that Merideth Plumpton has been hired as the new Nurse Program Coordinator. Merideth has relevant experience in public health nursing, having worked in the St. Albans District Office for the past five years as the immunization designee, epidemiology designee, and school liaison. One of her primary responsibilities will be training and oversight of the Immunization Quality Improvement Program that is implemented by public health nurses in the District Offices. Merideth can be reached by phone 802-951-1255 and email [Merideth.Plumpton@vermont.gov](mailto:Merideth.Plumpton@vermont.gov)



#### Welcome Elan!

Elan Curran has been hired as the Immunization Program's new Immunization Distribution Specialist. Elan's background in business management has long been focused on the health of Vermonters. She has worked for medical practice groups and non-profits in various roles; from supporting direct patient care

to writing health insurance policies to recruiting rural primary care providers. Many of you may know her from her recent role with the Immunization Registry team. When not working Elan enjoys traveling to music venues and festivals across the country. For vaccine ordering questions, Elan can be reached by phone at 802-863-7556 and email [Elan.Curran@vermont.gov](mailto:Elan.Curran@vermont.gov)



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## STATE ACTIVITIES



**REGISTER NOW**

### **2020 Vermont Immunization and Infectious Disease Conference!**

The 2020 Immunization and Infectious Disease Conference on April 7 in Burlington is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health. Conference programming is designed for medical providers, nurses, school nurses, public health professionals, pharmacists and students from across Vermont. Visit the [website](#) for more information. Questions? Contact Erin Larose [erin.larose@vermont.gov](mailto:erin.larose@vermont.gov). Find the agenda [here](#)!

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

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### **Webinar: Preparing for the Novel Coronavirus Update for Vermont Health Care Providers**

The Health Department will be hosting a novel coronavirus (now called COVID-19) informational webinar at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21 for health care providers and facilities. During this 45-minute webinar, you'll hear the latest information on epidemiology, infection control and prevention recommendations, specimen collection and testing

guidance, and clinical management for patients. Health care providers in primary, urgent, and acute care settings are encouraged to participate. Slides will be made available on our 2019 novel coronavirus web page after the webinar

**Vermont Department of Health Presenters:**

- Patsy Kelso, PhD, State Epidemiologist
- Julia Brennan, APN, MPH, Epidemiologist

**Agenda:**

- International and U.S. novel coronavirus activity
- Vermont response, including risk assessment and monitoring
- Recommendations for healthcare settings
- Identify, Isolate, Inform
- Infection control
- Testing
- Clinical management and treatment
- Q & A

**Call-in Information:**

**When:** Friday, February 21, 2020, 12:00 – 12:45 p.m.

**Topic:** Preparing for Novel Coronavirus in Vermont

**Toll number:** 1 (802) 828-7667 (Dial-in Number) **Conference ID:** 407806454#

Lines are limited – please join as a group when possible.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

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**Interim Estimates of 2019-20 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness  
report released 02/2020**

[CLICK TO READ REPORT](#)

**2020-2021 Flu Season**

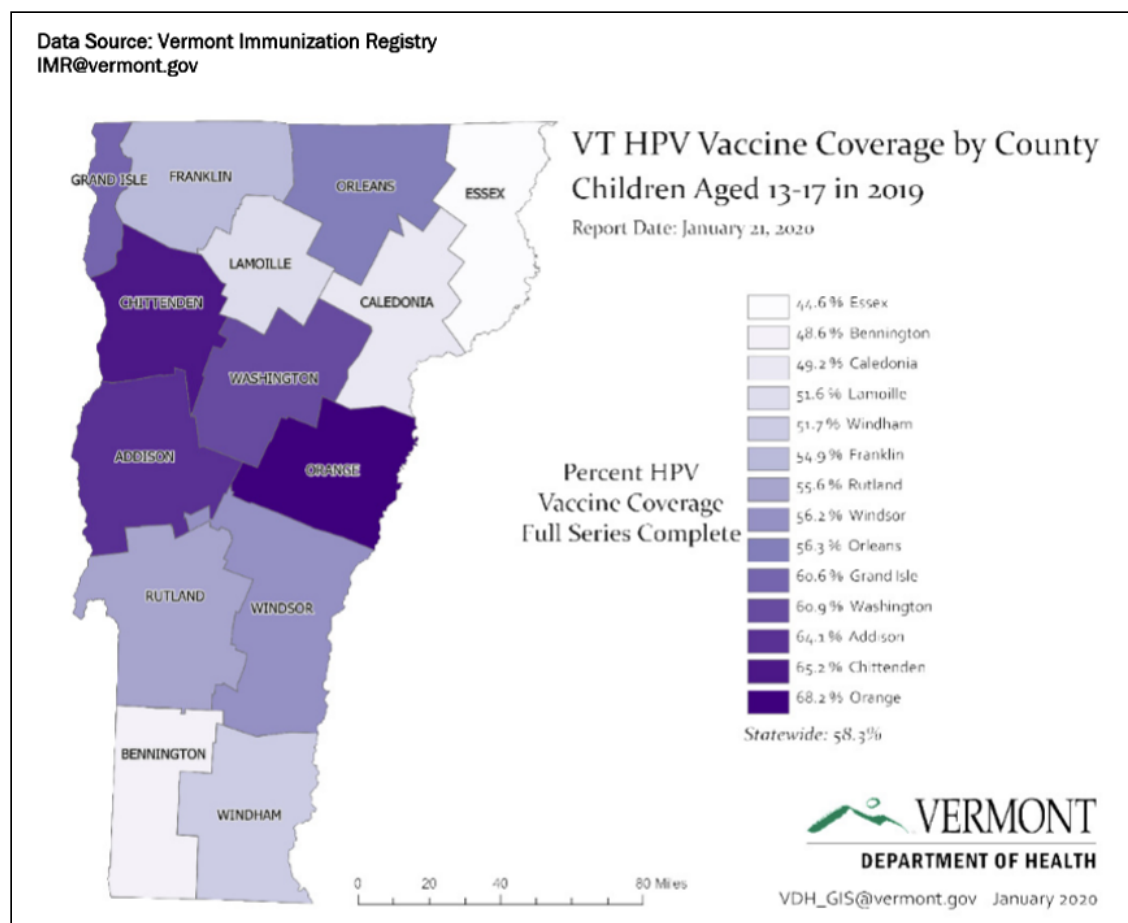
The 2019-20 influenza season is still in full swing, but it's not too early to plan for next season. Flu vaccine has been included in the Vermont Child Vaccine Program since 2003, but 2019-20 marked the first year of availability to adults age 19 through 64 years. We're pleased to offer this popular vaccine again next season. See the Frequently Asked Questions document, there are a few changes planned:

[CLICK TO READ: Flu Vaccine Availability FAQ](#)

## HPV Vaccine Safety and HPV Vaccine Coverage in Vermont

Vermont's HPV vaccination rates remain below a level needed to provide broad protection against six types of cancers. New studies continue to demonstrate the safety of the HPV vaccine.

- From VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) – CDC and FDA
  - [Safety of the 9-Valent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine](#)
- From VSD (Vaccine Safety Datalink) – CDC
  - [Near Real-Time Surveillance to Assess the Safety of 9-valent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine](#)



## Urgent Care and Home Health Agencies Eligible for State-supplied Vaccines

Urgent Care Facilities and Home Health Agencies are now eligible to enroll in the Vermont Child Vaccine Program (VCVP) and the/or Vermont Adult Vaccine Program (VAVP). The state Immunization Program purchases vaccines from the CDC federal contract and provides them at no cost to practices, for use in children (0-18) and adults (19-64) to enrolled practices that are able to adhere to program requirements. This expanded

eligibility to urgent care facilities and home health agencies will increase access to immunizations in Vermont.

Please contact the Immunization Program at:

[ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov) or call (802) 863-7368 and ask for Ines Burazerovic.

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## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

**Patients worried about coronavirus? Talk to them about flu.**

**CLICK FOR AUDIO: 3 minute listen from NPR**

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### New ACIP Recommendation

The CDC recently published a change in the TD/Tdap recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in October 2019.

Tdap may now be used in place of Td where only Td vaccine was previously recommended. Specific indications include:

- 10-year booster
- Wound management
- Catch-up immunization schedule



Reference:

Td Tdap MMWR: Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccines: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2019

Allowing either tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular (Tdap) or tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) to be used in situations where Td only was previously recommended increases provider point-of-care flexibility.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

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We want to make the Vermont Immunization Bulletin as informative and engaging as possible. We'd love your input on how we can improve.

[Share Feedback and Suggestions](#)

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