

Vermont Immunization Bulletin

May 2019

Program Updates

New Data Logger Installation

Within the next few months, SensoScientific cloud-based Wi-Fi data loggers will be installed at all VFC/VFA enrolled practices. The installers will contact your practice 2-3 weeks in advance by phone and/or email to schedule on-site installation and staff training. The Vermont Immunization Program Data Logger Policy addresses practice expectations and will be emailed to all vaccine coordinators and backup coordinators in the coming weeks. If you have questions, please email ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram.gov.

Schedules and Recommendations

June ACIP Meeting Agenda

ACIP will meet on June 26-27. The committee will vote on:

- the use of 9vHPV vaccine among those 27-45 years
- modification to hepatitis A recommendations
- pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in those 65 years and older
- flu vaccine recommendations for 2019-2020

Important information from the meeting will be included in the July Bulletin. For more information, please visit the CDC's ACIP web page : <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/index.html>.

State Activities

Dr. Joshua Kantrowitz is Vermont's 2019 Childhood Immunization Champion

The St. Johnsbury pediatrician received the national award from the CDC for outstanding efforts to ensure that children are fully immunized before the age of two. Read about his work and that of other Champions around the country here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/champions/profiles-2019.html>.

Twenty Five Primary Care Practices Recognized for High Child and Teen Immunization Rates

Find a complete list of recognized practices on the Immunization Program web page:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization>.

2018-2019 School and Child Care Immunization Coverage Data Released

Immunization data for Vermont K-12 schools, child care facilities, and colleges are now available on the Health Department website: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization/vaccination-coverage> . The data shows:

- Almost 95% of K-12 students in Vermont were up-to-date on all vaccines required to attend school.
- Coverage has increased from just under 91% six years ago.
- Nearly 94% of children younger than five years old enrolled in regulated child care programs met all vaccine requirements for their age.
- However, **pockets of low coverage remain**, leaving some areas at increased risk of an outbreak. For instance, about 5% of schools had kindergarten MMR coverage below 80% and another 12% had coverage below 90%.

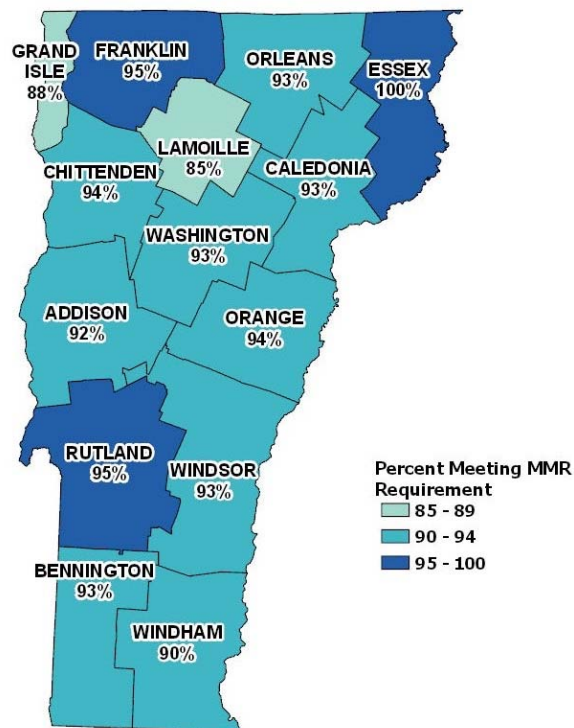


Figure 1 According to CDC, 93-95% of people need to be vaccinated to protect a community from a measles outbreak.

Measles Resources

In response to the increased number of measles cases and multiple outbreaks in the U.S., providers around the State should be aware of the resources available to them via the Health Department Immunization and Infections Disease Epidemiology programs. Several of these resources are highlighted below.

WEBINAR: Preparing for Measles - Update for Vermont Health Care Providers

Friday, May 10, 2019 12:15-1:00 p.m.

On Friday, May 10, the Department of Health hosted an informational webinar for health care providers and facility administrators or directors. Slides are now available on the Health Department's new Measles Information for Providers page: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/measles/measles-information-providers>.

Practice Specific Provider Mailing

Your office should have received a packet in the mail that included:

- a letter from the State Epidemiologist that addresses what is happening nationally and what is being done by the Department of Health to prevent measles in Vermont
- guidance from the Immunization Registry (IMR) on how to run a report of individual unvaccinated patients by vaccine
- practice-specific IMR rates compared with statewide rates
- "Preventing Measles within Your Practice" flyer

If your office did not receive your packet, please email the Immunization Program at AHS.VDHImmunizationProgram@vermont.gov.

Am I protected against measles?

The Vermont Department of Health's measles page provides an up-to-date FAQ that addresses many patient concerns: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/measles>.

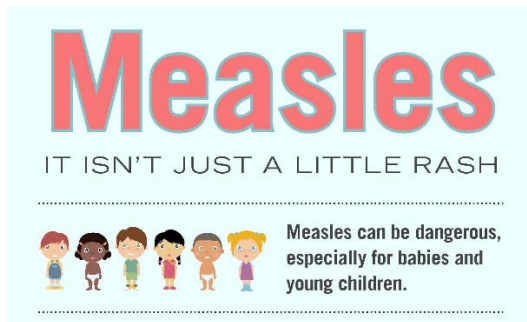
MMR Vaccine Ordering and Supply

When considering how many doses of MMR vaccine to order for your practice, please look at the guidance on the Department of Health measles page. If your office is not due to place a routine vaccine order and needs additional doses, please e-mail the Immunization Program for permission.

The Immunization Program has received many questions about the use of state supplied MMR for adults. If vaccine is indicated for an adult patient per CDC recommendations, state supply may be used.

To date, Merck has assured the CDC and the national media that there is ample supply of measles vaccine to meet demand during this outbreak.

Printable Poster: "Measles, it isn't just a little rash"



CDC provides many printable PDFs in their resource library. This infographic, currently available in English and Spanish, emphasizes that measles can be serious, especially in infants and young children.

What do immunization rates tell us about the future of measles disease?

In 2000, the Pan American Health Organization announced that vaccination efforts had eliminated measles in the United States. As the number of cases continues to grow in the 2019 outbreak, Jonathan Lambert looks at national vaccine coverage rates and wonders if the U.S. will soon lose its measles elimination status.

- Is Measles Here to Stay?, *NPR Shots* (April 30, 2019) <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/04/30/718220586/is-measles-here-to-stay>

A naturopath prepares for measles

"Nobody wants to see their clinic listed on the public health website as a hotspot for measles transmission," writes Matt Brignall, ND. He details the considerations and methodology he used when preparing measles protocols for his office.

- Measles Update, *NDs for Vaccines* (February 5, 2019) <http://ndsforvaccines.com/measles-update/>

Video: Who needs a second dose of MMR?

Who needs a second dose of MMR? ZDoggMD summarizes the recommendations in this three-minute video: <https://youtu.be/IFoikCzIAYc>