

Vermont Immunization Bulletin

June 2020

PROGRAM UPDATES

Decrease in Vaccines Administered due to COVID-19

[Data](#) recently provided through Vermont's Immunization Registry compares the number of vaccines administered from February-May 2019 and 2020. Vermont's experience has been consistent with the U.S – where there was a dramatic decrease in vaccines administered in April. Recent Vermont data show a partial rebound in May. It is clear that COVID-19 containment efforts greatly impacted vaccine administration in primary care practices. Efforts to catch-up kids on vaccines will be important in order to prevent outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other vaccine preventable diseases.

How Can We Support You?

With the recent decrease in vaccines administered, the Immunization Program is seeking your input! We need to identify and implement strategies that support your efforts to achieve and maintain high immunization rates across the lifespan in Vermont.

Please take 5 minutes to complete the [survey](#). This survey was also sent by e-mail to the Provider-in-Charge for each enrolled practice on June 8 and ask that only one survey per practice be submitted.

The Program will provide a summary of data collected in the July edition of the [Vermont Immunization Bulletin](#)

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

Thank you for participating,
The Immunization Program Team

CANCELLED: The September 28th Immunization & Infectious Disease Conference.

After careful consideration of the recent events, conference organizers have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Immunization & Infectious Disease Conference. We considered alternative options, but felt it was best to cancel and convene at another time in the future. Those who have already paid the registration fee will be contacted and issued a full refund in the next few weeks.

We thank all our partners, speakers, and attendees for their interest in participating, and we appreciate your understanding and hard work during this difficult time. We look forward to holding the conference again in a couple of years, and hope to see you there.

[Questions on the 2020-21 Adult Flu Vaccine Program? CLICK HERE](#)

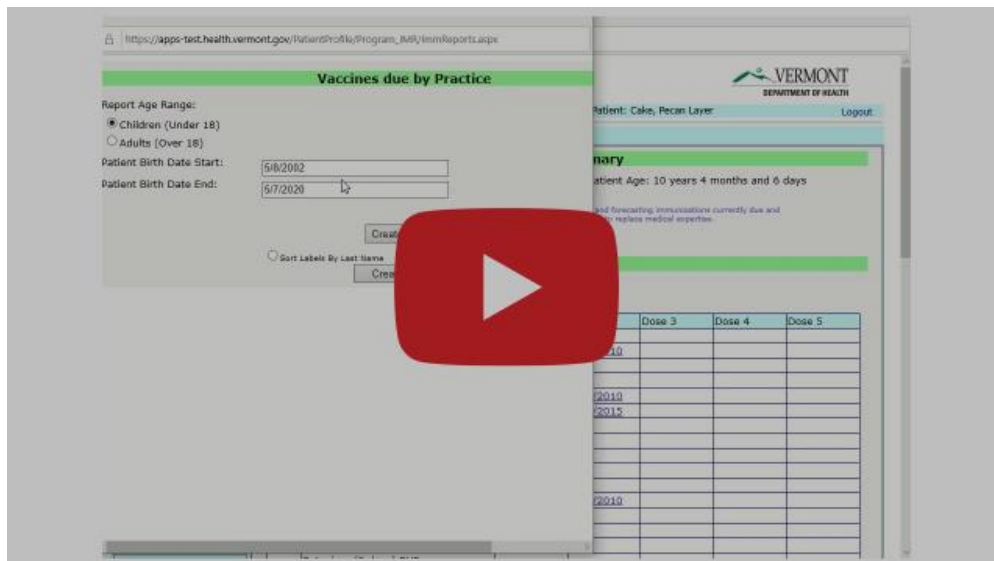
Vaccine Inventory Adjustments

The CDC requires that we not return any vaccines prior to their expiration date, not even flu. All viable vaccine should be kept in the fridge until expiration. Once expired, you may enter an adjustment in VIMS and package the vaccines for return. For the *adjustment type* choose: **Return** and the *adjustment reason* choose: **Expired**. A return label will be emailed to you so the vaccines can be shipped back to McKesson. If you do not receive a return shipping label within 48 hours of submitting your adjustment, check your junk mail folder and if not there, please contact the Immunization Program Specialist elan.curran@vermont.gov

[Vaccine Adjustment Guide - CLICK HERE](#)

Immunization Registry Tutorial.

Identify and recall patients who are behind on immunizations due to COVID-19.



STATE ACTIVITIES

School Immunization Rates

The Immunization Program webpage for [Vermont school vaccination coverage data](#) has been updated for school year 2019-20.

The percentage of Vermont K -12 students meeting all vaccine requirements remains high, increasing this past school year to 95.1%. Kindergartners also reached an all-time high, up-to-date rate of 92.2%. Rates of exemption and provisional admittance declined in both groups.

School entry requirements will remain in effect this fall. See more detail and congratulations in the memo, [Compliance with Vermont's Immunization Law and Regulations](#) from Commissioner of Health, Mark Levine, M.D. and Secretary of Education Daniel M. French, Ed.D.

We want to hear from YOU.

The Immunization Program is interested in increasing opportunities for all populations/ages to be protected against the flu. Do you have ideas about how to increase the number of children, teens and adults in Vermont who get a flu vaccine?

If so, we want to hear from you! With COVID-19 circulating, it is even more important that everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine. Please send your ideas to: Molly.Nicholson@partner.vermont.gov

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

There will be a one-day virtual meeting in June and an additional meeting in August.

There is a COVID-19 work-group <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/index.html>

[June Meeting Agenda](#)

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

News Feature

Eight ways in which scientists hope to provide immunity to SARS-CoV-2

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01221-y>

Immunization Action Coalition - Ask the Experts

COVID-19 and Routine Vaccination

https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_covid19.asp



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