

VERMONT IMMUNIZATION BULLETIN

October 2020

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Flu Shots



Flu Vaccine Ordering – Important Update

Effective **September 30**, all enrolled providers may order flu vaccine directly through the Vaccine Inventory Management System (VIMS).

Practices will temporarily need to reconcile their entire vaccine inventory, when placing a flu vaccine order 7 days or more after their last reconciliation. Within a few weeks, practices will be able to submit a flu vaccine order and only need to reconcile flu doses. Work is currently underway to make those changes and you will be notified as soon as the changes are complete.

Please direct all questions to the Immunization Program inbox at: AHS.VDHImmunizationProgram@Vermont.gov



Is your practice planning a vaccine clinic?

Guidance for Off-site Influenza and COVID19 Vaccine Clinics for
2020-21

Let us help you plan ahead for success. See important ordering and management information here: [Guidance for Off Site Clinics.](#)

Clinic Promotion: The Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program is encouraging practices that are offering flu vaccine to the public to register with a VaccineFinder account. This tool allows practices to engage more Vermonters around the opportunities to receive a flu vaccine this season. Use it as a tool to promote clinics to surrounding communities!

Here are the steps to register and set up an account:

1. Go to <https://locating.health/register> and register as a VaccineFinder or MedFinder Registration
2. You will be asked to provide your organization's name, as well as your contact information.
 - a. You will have the option to note if your organization is provides medications and/or vaccine and if you are interested in setting up automated data uploads.
3. Once registered, your application will be reviewed within a few days, after which an email will follow up with next steps.

This tool is available for access through VDH's website and practices are encouraged to direct patients there as well to find flu vaccination opportunities in their area. Patients will be able to access this information by visiting www.healthvermont.gov and clicking "Find a Flu Shot," which will take them to <https://vaccinefinder.org/find-vaccine>.

2020-2021 State Supplied Influenza Vaccine Bulletin

Links to Vaccine Information Statements, information on ordering, new recommendations and more. [Check it out.](#)

Updated 'YOU CALL THE SHOTS' Influenza Module

As you make plans to encourage flu vaccination this season, check out the updated [You Call the Shots Influenza Module](#). You Call the Shots Influenza Module is an interactive, web-based immunization training course. It consists of a series of modules that discuss vaccine-preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use. Each module provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary. Learn about Influenza vaccines, indications and contraindications for vaccination, and vaccine administration. Physicians, nurses, health educators, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals are invited to apply for continuing education credits. Access the updated module [HERE](#).

Do we have your current email address?

The Vaccine Program uses email as the primary means of communication to notify practices about flu vaccine orders placed and supply issues. Stay in communication with the Immunization Program via

email: AHS.VDHImmunizationProgram@Vermont.gov

Influenza Vaccine Coverage 2019-2020 Flu Season

A review of Vermont's flu vaccination rates clearly shows that more needs to be done to protect Vermonters again influenza. This is especially true during the Covid-19 pandemic because infection with influenza and Covid-19 infection is dangerous at any age. The Vermont Immunization Registry manages immunization records centrally, allowing a closer look at county data to support the planning and evaluation of efforts to increase flu vaccination coverage rates. [Read the report.](#)

Immunization Coverage Report -- Annual Report for 2019 from the Vermont Immunization Registry

We are pleased to announce the release of our annual report for immunization coverage from the Vermont Immunization Registry. This report includes detailed coverage for both children and adolescents, and we expect to release this each summer moving forward. We think this will be an important resource, especially since the numbers reported here are calculated as of 12/31/2019 – so they can serve as baseline data in a changing world. [Read full report here.](#)

New IMR Forecaster

We are happy to announce the Vermont Immunization Registry (IMR) has implemented a new forecaster that will help us to quickly incorporate new vaccine schedule recommendations issued by the CDC. A quick guide for using the new forecaster is posted on the Immunization Registry home page. [How to Use the New IMR Forecaster.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Planning

Staff from multiple divisions in the Health Department and other areas of state government are collaborating with the Immunization Program in planning for the day when COVID-19 vaccine(s) are approved by FDA and recommended by CDC/ACIP.

Work has begun to enroll hospitals, pharmacies and provider practices and others in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. More details will be provided in the next month.

Dr. Levine shared the following [statement](#) about COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Distribution.

STATE ACTIVITIES



It's time to complete the Flu Clinic Grant Application!

Applications must be submitted by October 23, 2020 to participate. The American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, in collaboration with the Department of Health's

Immunization Program, is providing funding to support expanded influenza vaccination by healthcare practitioners or organizations.

Scope of Grant - Providing Support for Influenza Vaccination Clinics

The Grantee shall solicit interest from all Vermont Vaccine Program (child and/or adult) enrolled health care practices/organizations, and those eligible for enrollment, for participation in the 2020-21 influenza vaccination expansion effort. It is the intent of the State to provide financial support for health care practices/organizations to:

- a) assess barriers to flu vaccination in the communities served by the recipient and in collaboration with community organizations.
- b) implement flu clinics in communities to address identified barriers. Emphasis should be placed on offering flu vaccination clinics specifically to high-risk populations or those with limited access (e.g. assisting living communities, senior housing, schools).
- c) expand access to flu vaccination at primary care practices through patient outreach, vaccine promotion, and expansion of current flu vaccination services.
- d) offer off-site flu clinics at selected locations to meet the need of the community served (e.g. schools, shelters, meal sites, etc.)

Health Care Practices/Organizations may retrospectively receive \$1000 per clinic held (up to \$5000 total). Applications will be reviewed on receipt and funds will be distributed upon project completion and receipt of final project report. Applications must be received by October 23rd, 2020. Flu Clinics will ideally be held before the end of the year, but must be completed by March 31, 2021.

APPLY NOW: <http://www.aapvt.org/>

Deadline is October 23rd

ACIP/CDC

ACIP Meetings Information

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has held four virtual “pop-up” committee meetings. All meetings have focused on review and evaluation of COVID-19 vaccines under development, safety assessments and monitoring and efforts to identify critical populations. The next meeting will be October 28-30. The ACIP agenda and meeting materials can be found [here](#).

Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused healthcare providers to change how they operate to continue to provide essential services to patients. Ensuring immunization services are maintained or reinitiated is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks and reducing the burden of respiratory illness during the upcoming influenza season.

The following are a collection of federal resources designed to guide vaccine planning during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Preparing Your Practice for the 2020-21 Influenza Season: A Virtual Townhall

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/help-for-pediatricians/preparing-for-flu-season/>

Communicating the Benefits of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine during COVID-19

Tips on how to discuss vaccine effectiveness. <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3115.pdf>

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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