



## Alaska Immunization Program

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### Mumps Update

The ongoing mumps outbreak has a weekly surveillance update [here](#). For general information about mumps and resources for the general public, please visit [here](#). Please view the [Alaska Public Health Advisory](#) for updated MMR vaccination recommendation.

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### Childhood Immunization Champion Award

It is time for nominations for the annual CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award. This award recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. Nominations are due to the [Alaska Immunization Program](#) by February 2, 2018. Please visit the [award website](#) for more information.

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In 2018, the only non-participating payers are Medicaid and Medicare. AVAP provider opt in is optional and designed for providers who wish to offer state-supplied vaccine to uninsured adult patients. Opt in for adult uninsured patients using [this form](#). For more information, please review [the opt in summary and instructions](#). AVAP provider opt in will occur from January 2 through February 28, 2018.

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VacTrAK implemented a version upgrade on 12/20/2017. For more information, read the whole story of [What's New in VacTrAK!](#)

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### Immunization Helpline FAQ's.

If my facility enrolls in AVAP for 2018, when will I receive an invoice from KidsVax?

Invoices will be sent to facilities in mid-March 2018.

# Annual Provider Enrollment

In an effort to streamline provider enrollment for 2018, please review the steps and timeline below.

**Staff Changes:** If there are any staff or facility changes in 2018, follow the instructions for [State-supplied Vaccine Provider Information Change](#). To change any user information, use the form to [Add/Modify Users](#). These changes need to be in effect prior to completing the 2018 Vaccine Education Course and submitting the 2018 Provider Agreement.

## 2018 State-supplied Vaccine Education

**Course:** The [course](#) must be completed by the Vaccine Coordinator, all listed Back-up Vaccine Coordinators, and any new Certifying Providers prior to submission of the 2018 Provider Agreement. More detailed instructions are available [here](#). Continuing education credits are available.

**2018 Provider Agreement:** The [2018 Provider Agreement](#) can only be submitted after the 2018 State-supplied Vaccine Education Course is completed by all required parties. The Provider Agreement must be submitted by February 28, 2018.

# ALPHA Poster Presentation

The Alaska Immunization Program presented a poster titled *Alaska Immunization Coverage Rates and Strategies for Improvement* at the annual Alaska Public Health Association Summit on January 17.

**Alaska Immunization Coverage Rates and Strategies for Improvement**  
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**Abstract**  
Immunizations are one of the greatest public health achievements, offering an unparalleled opportunity for preventing infectious disease. Despite the support for immunizations, Alaska lags behind the nation for immunization coverage rates.  
The Alaska Immunization Program strives to improve immunization coverage rates through a variety of methods, including enhanced healthcare provider education, media campaigns, and working with community partners. Two evidence-based strategies for improvement feature prominently in efforts to improve immunization rates: *Reminder/recall* and *reminder/recall*.

**Strategies for Improvement: R/IR**  
R/IR is an evidence-based intervention that is partnering between the Alaska Immunization Program and an individual medical provider. The multiple providers have the ability to complete and incorporate a single:  
• **Reminder** - If an individual child's immunization coverage is not up to date, a reminder is sent to the provider.  
• **Recall** - A reminder is sent to the provider to schedule a visit with the child to complete any outstanding immunizations.  
In 2015, the Alaska Immunization Program (AIP) Coordinator contacted 26,479 active child providers, including 22,649 general practitioners, 1,914 nurse practitioners, and 1,116 pediatric nurse practitioners.  
• **Recall** - A method of notifying electronic health records of the individual immunization information system (EHR) to determine which patients need a reminder to receive an immunization, a reminder in the form of a patient, care team, or provider notification to the patient to return to the provider's office to receive their immunization.

**Strategies for Improvement: Reminder/Recall**  
Reminder/recall is a method of notifying electronic health records of the individual immunization information system (EHR) to determine which patients need a reminder to receive an immunization, a reminder in the form of a patient, care team, or provider notification to the patient to return to the provider's office to receive their immunization.

**Introduction/State**  
The mission of the Immunization Program is to prevent and control vaccine-preventable disease in Alaska. This is accomplished through a variety of activities, both by the Alaska Immunization Program and by healthcare providers and patients. The Alaska Immunization Program activities:  
• Provide resources to healthcare providers at no charge  
• Provide an immunization information system for use by healthcare providers and others to maintain comprehensive immunization records for children of all ages  
• Promote school and childcare compliance with immunization regulations  
• Provide immunization education and training for healthcare providers and the general public  
• Coordinate surveillance and control efforts for vaccine-preventable diseases  
• Support efforts to increase vaccination for all Alaskans  
Figure 1 is a graphic representation of the multifaceted nature of the program.

**Discussion**  
Immunization coverage rates for the Trivalent oral polio vaccine have increased from 2009 to 2016 (Figure 2). Similar trends remain across the healthy, hearing, and hearing-impaired 2013 goals, Alaska is on track to reach the target of 95% coverage for healthy children 2007.  
VPI coverage for both male and female adolescents aged 12 through 17 years in Alaska are meeting coverage targets (3). In 2016, Alaska rates had a significant increase for one or more doses of VPI.

**Conclusions**  
Improving coverage rates in 2018 will be an ongoing effort. Continued work to increase media outreach, provider education, outreach, VPI, and reminder/recall efforts. Immunization coverage rates are expected to increase in Alaska. Improved coverage rates result in a decrease in childhood vaccine-preventable disease and resultant disabilities.

**References**  
1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Immunization coverage rates for children aged 19-35 months - United States, 2014-2015*. *MMWR*. 2016;65(10):247-251.  
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Immunization coverage rates for children aged 19-35 months - United States, 2014-2015*. *MMWR*. 2016;65(10):247-251.  
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Immunization coverage rates for children aged 19-35 months - United States, 2014-2015*. *MMWR*. 2016;65(10):247-251.

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## Regional Workshops 2018

The Alaska Immunization Program will host regional workshops in March 2018. These half day workshops offer a refresher on vaccines, program requirements, and program updates. The target audience is staff from facilities enrolled with the Alaska Immunization Program but all are welcome. Registration will begin in late January. Continuing education credits are in process.

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## Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

Providers please share information with your patients needing PVST after completion of Hepatitis B vaccine series, the recommended PVST is to be drawn at 9-12 months (or 1-2 months after the administration of the hepatitis B vaccine final dose) as stated in the following MMWR <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6439a6.htm>

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