

Immune News



Alaska Immunization Program

Bexsero Update

Bexsero is available to VFC-enrolled providers under a specialty order set. If you would like access to order Bexsero, please contact the Helpline, 269-8088 or immune@alaska.gov.

Herpes Zoster Update

The ACIP approved a new herpes zoster subunit vaccine (Shingrix) for use in the United States in October 2017. The vaccine recommendations will be summarized in a formal MMWR and, soon after that, will be incorporated into the Alaska Immunization Program formulary. The ACIP recommended Shingrix for adults 50 years old and older and recommends it preferentially over the live attenuated zoster vaccine. You can sign up for MMWR updates [here](#).

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Flu Season Update

All of the state supplied Sanofi Fluzone High Dose pre-filled syringe doses for 65+ years have been distributed. Plenty of doses of other influenza products remain and you can continue to order as needed Sanofi Fluzone multi-dose vials for 6+ mos, Sanofi Fluzone .25mL pre-filled syringe for 6-35 mos and GSK Fluarix pre-filled syringe for 36+ mos.

As the 2017 influenza season begins, it is important to remember that you call the shots when it comes to safe vaccination. To promote both safe vaccination, CDC is launching a campaign to educate and remind providers about proper influenza (flu) vaccine administration technique to help avoid shoulder injuries and other adverse events.

Get comprehensive [vaccine administration information](#) and watch a [short video](#) on the correct technique for intramuscular injection. Healthcare providers can earn free continuing education by completing the new [vaccine administration e-Learn](#).

Getting an annual flu vaccination is the best way to prevent the flu. CDC's [influenza website](#) offers a variety of free [educational materials](#) on the importance of flu vaccination, aimed at both health care providers and the general public, including for [older adults](#).

Vaccine Depot Transition Update

McKesson, a national distribution warehouse located in Colorado, is now shipping most state-supplied vaccine to Alaska medical providers. Please review the [instructions](#) and recent [webinar](#) on how to receive a McKesson shipment, which includes the important step of determining the number of days that the shipment has been in transit.

Due to the holiday season, shipments by Merck and McKesson plus deliveries by carriers will be limited and experience delays in November and December. **Tuesday December 12th** will be the last day that you can submit a vaccine order in 2018. Submit your vaccine orders early before you run low on stock to allow plenty of time for your order to be shipped.

AFIX: Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, & eXchange

The current AFIX season is almost over and several facilities have completed the AFIX eXchange visit. Many providers participating in the Vaccines for Children Program have implemented quality improvement strategies to improve immunization delivery practices. Certificates of completion will be provided to facilities after the completion of the AFIX Program.

For more information check out the AFIX webpage:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Pages/afix.aspx>

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Protects Newborns

Immunization Helpline FAQ's.

Who should get a flu vaccine?

Everyone six months of age and older should be vaccinated against the flu.

The birth dose of hepatitis B protects infants from hepatitis B infection and from developing chronic hepatitis B infections which may occur through contact with an infected mother, household member, or caregiver. For more information on ways to protect newborns against the hepatitis B virus, visit the Immunization Action Coalition website for more information:

<http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose/> and check out the Alaska Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program page: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Pages/hbv/default.aspx>

Incentives for Vaccines

The Alaska Immunization Program is partnering with McDonald's Immunize for Healthy Lives campaign, working with Alaska McDonald's owners to distribute incentives to healthcare providers to support their childhood immunization efforts. These incentive items are available to healthcare providers who receive state-supplied vaccine and are intended to be used as a reward to children for receiving their immunizations. Items include Ronald McDonald smile placards and coupons for wholesome food options (one free item choice of a side salad, apple slices, apple juice, white milk, chocolate milk, or bottled water) at Alaska McDonald's restaurants. Restaurant coupons expire in the summer of 2018. To participate, please email immune@alaska.gov.

AVAP



The AVAP Council met to set the 2018 Assessment Rate on September 21. For general information about AVAP, please visit www.akvaccine.org. Optional provider opt in to cover uninsured adults will begin in December 2017.

Temperature Excursion Reminder

Once state supplied stock is accepted at your office, you assume all future cold chain monitoring responsibilities. If state supplied stock has a temperature experience that deviates from recommended storage temperatures for any length of time, you must process an excursion review. [Instructions](#) are posted on our [Vaccine Distribution Program](#) website. The final step is to e-mail the [Temperature Excursion Report](#) along with any associated temperature monitoring data (e.g., LogTag file) to immune@alaska.gov. Vaccine should not be removed from status of "do not use" until the excursion process is complete which includes the final step of submitting the report.

Resources & Training

Check out recently [recorded webinars](#), [instructions for shipping](#), and [continuing education opportunities](#) on our website.

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