



# Alaska Immunization Program

## Update from the Program Manager

The Alaska Immunization Program is doing our part to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by teleworking. All hotlines will be checked periodically for messages. The best way to receive assistance is to contact us by email.

- General questions, IQIP, Perinatal Hep B program, and AVAP: [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov)
- VFC Program: [vfc@alaska.gov](mailto:vfc@alaska.gov)
- Vaccine Distribution and Inventory Management: [vaccinedepot@alaska.gov](mailto:vaccinedepot@alaska.gov)
- VacTrAK : [vactrak@alaska.gov](mailto:vactrak@alaska.gov)
- Self ImmAGE: [selfimage@alaska.gov](mailto:selfimage@alaska.gov)



VacTrAK has implemented a new version (v.5.29.2) effective June 9th, 2020. The following updates indicate important system changes:

1. Addition of Free-Text Lot Numbers for Private Inventory
  - Added functionality to enter free-text lot information via manual entry

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### Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

How can I stay informed about the latest on COVID-19?

~TS

Dear TS,

- This functionality will not meet acceptable reporting requirements for entry with Public Lot Numbers
- Guide for utilization can be found here: [Free-Text Lot Number Entry for Private Lots](#)

## 2. Changes to Patient Active/Inactive Status

- The Active status in VacTrAK is changing as the system goes from a 1:1 Active status at the Facility level to a three level Active status at the Organizational, Regional, and State levels.
- For more information, please reference our guide located here: [Active/Inactive Status and VacTrAK](#)

## 3. Changes and Updates to Meningococcal B Forecasting

- Starting June 9th, VacTrAK will forecast for the first dose of Meningococcal B and a “Clinical Discretion” message will be displayed:

Vaccination Forecast					
The forecast automatically switches to the catch-up schedule when a patient is behind schedule.					
Vaccine Group	Forecasted Dose	Recommended Date	Minimum Valid Date	Overdue Date	Status
MENINGOCOCCAL B, OMV (Clinical Discretion)	1	05/25/2020	05/25/2014	06/24/2020	Due Now

## Influenza Vaccine Returns

Process a [return](#) for all spoiled and expired influenza vaccines - as you would for any other state-supplied vaccine - and mail them to the Alaska Immunization Program at 3601 C St Suite 586 Anchorage, AK 99503. Do **not** dispose of influenza vaccine at your facility.

## New Reusable Shipping Containers for Frozen Vaccine

### New Reusable Shipping Containers for Frozen Vaccine

This summer, Merck will start shipping Varivax frozen vaccine in a reusable container. Merck will be replacing the current Styrofoam container with reusable shipping containers to help reduce waste and negative impacts on our environment. Please be aware that:

- The reusable shipping container will look different than the Styrofoam containers providers have been familiar with receiving and

For the latest information on COVID-19 check the [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19](#) website and the [CDC COVID-19](#) website. Check these sites regularly to stay informed on the newest information and mandates. To get the latest information by email or text sign up [here](#).

- Providers are expected to mail the containers back to the container's manufacturer Aerosafe (via a postage paid return label on the container, at no cost to the provider)

See Merck's [return instructions](#) and [demo video](#) (scroll down web page to find video) for more information

## Resources & Training

We have extended the due date for [VFC Provider Staff Training](#) until June 30, 2020. Please ensure your facility stay compliant by finishing the training before the 30th. If you need assistance with the training, please contact [immune@alaska.gov](mailto:immune@alaska.gov).

We are still available to mail out educational resources to facilities. If you need resource materials fill out the [Immunization Order Form](#) and submit it online or fax it to us at 907-562-7802.

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