



# Alaska Immunization Program

## Update from the Program Manager

The Alaska Immunization Program website includes several new and updated resources including resources for determining state-supplied vaccine eligibility for children, public notice on proposed State regulation changes related to immunizations, and a directory of providers who are enrolled to receive state-supplied vaccine. The Spotlight section of the main page is designed to highlight certain information. The website address is <http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/id/iz/default.htm>

The Immunization Program is pleased to announce that Adeline Gallen, a community health aide practitioner in Barrow, has received the 2015 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award for Alaska. The award was announced in conjunction with National Infant Immunization Week, April 18-25, 2015. Adeline was recognized along with 33 other individual Champions nationally for the work being done to make a difference in the health of our children and communities. This annual award is given by the CDC Foundation to honor exemplary childhood immunization advocates across all 50 states, 8 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. For more information on Adeline and others, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/champions/profiles-2015.html>

## Hot Topic

On May 11, 2015 Governor Bill Walker signed SB71 a new piece of legislation into law that allows vaccine certification for pharmacists, effective 8/9/15. This bill authorizes trained and certified pharmacists to immunize Alaskans without having to contract with a doctor or nurse practitioner to

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## Immunization Helpline FAQ's.

**A dose of Kinrix (DTaP-IPV; GlaxoSmithKline) was inadvertently given to a 4-month-old in our practice who needed DTaP and IPV. Can this dose be considered valid?**

Kinrix is only licensed for use as the fifth dose of the DTaP vaccine series and the fourth dose of the IPV series in children age 4 through 6 years. CDC has provided this guidance for when Kinrix is given off-label:

- Kinrix given to a child younger than 4 years as DTaP and IPV doses 1, 2, or 3: Count as valid if all minimum intervals met.

oversee their immunization program. The Alaska Immunization Program is evaluating its state-supplied vaccine and yellow fever authorization process policies in light of this new law. This exciting new opportunity for collaboration with pharmacists is important in furthering the Program's mission to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases.

• Kinrix given to a child younger than 4 years as DTaP and IPV doses #4 and/or #5: Count as valid for DTaP #4; not valid for DTaP #5 or IPV #4, both of which must be administered at age 4 through 6 years.

The Alaska Immunization Program supports and follows CDC and ACIP guidance on immunization recommendations.

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## Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program



AVAP facilitates the universal purchase of vaccines in Alaska. It provides funding for all ACIP recommended vaccines for insured children and for certain adult vaccines selected by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. By collecting payments from health plans, insurers, and other responsible entities and remitting those funds to the State of Alaska, the program allows Alaskans to gain improved access to vaccines, health care providers to receive state-supplied vaccines at no charge, and payers to benefit from cost savings through the state's bulk vaccine purchase and distribution.

The Alaska Vaccine Assessment Council (AVAP) convened its first meeting in January 2015 and has continued to hold meetings to establish a charter, draft proposed changes to regulations, and evaluate assessment methodologies. These meetings are open to the public, and notices are available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

We are thrilled to report that the vast majority of payers with beneficiaries in Alaska are participating in AVAP for 2015. Payer participation is critical for this exciting new statewide program to be successful. Regrettably, the payers listed below are not participating in AVAP in 2015. Part of this may be attributed to payers not adequately understanding the cost-savings of participating in the program.

1. Blue Benefit Administrators of Massachusetts
2. Employee Benefit Management Services (EBMS)
3. Medicare
4. Municipality of Anchorage Employees (Moda)
5. Seafarers Health & Benefits Plan
6. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
7. TRICARE

We are also pleased to report that 35 health care providers have selected to opt in to the AVAP program to receive state-supplied vaccine for uninsured adult populations that they serve. This additional coverage benefits over 55,000 uninsured Alaskan adults.

For more information on AVAP visit [www.akvaccine.org](http://www.akvaccine.org)

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## VacTrAK



On May 5, 2015 the Alaska Immunization Program mailed out courtesy coverage rate reports to vaccine coordinators at facilities receiving state-supplied vaccine. Reports featured facility-specific ACIP recommended vaccine coverage rates for children 19 through 35 months of age, according to data in the VacTrAK immunization information system. The purpose of the report mailing was to provide baseline immunization coverage data for practices to utilize in their quality improvement program activities involving evaluation of immunization services.

VacTrAK's Report Module feature in the Report Menu allows users to generate various types of reports, depending upon access level permission. Examples of reports that providers may find helpful in tracking vaccinations provided in their practice include: Vaccine Administered, Patient Detail, Provider Submission and Coverage Rate. Practices can monitor their own coverage rates for age groups of interest using the Coverage Rate report. The Immunization Program's VacTrAK webpage includes two coverage rate report reference sheets for setting parameters to run child and/or adolescent coverage rate reports.

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## Vaccine Management

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), during its February 2015 meeting, recommended the new 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (9vHPV) (Gardasil 9, Merck and Co., Inc.) as one of three HPV vaccines (2vHPV, 4vHPV, 9vHPV) that can be used for routine vaccination. HPV vaccine is recommended for routine vaccination of both boys and girls at age 11 or 12 years. The vaccination series can be started beginning at age 9 years. ACIP also recommends vaccination for females aged 13 through 26 years and males aged 13 through 21 years not vaccinated previously. Vaccination is also recommended through age 26 for men who have sex with men and for immunocompromised persons (including those with HIV infection), if not vaccinated previously.

The 4vHPV and the new 9vHPV vaccines both protect against HPV 16 and 18, the HPV types that cause about 66% of cervical cancer and the majority of other HPV-attributable cancers in the United States. The 4vHPV and 9vHPV also protect against HPV 6 and 11, the HPV types that cause anogenital warts. The 9vHPV targets five additional cancer-causing HPV types, which account for about 15% of cervical cancers.

The Section of Epidemiology's Vaccine Depot plans to transition HPV vaccine in the State formulary from the Gardasil quadrivalent vaccine (4vHPV) over to the 9vHPV vaccine when current inventory levels are exhausted (by the end of this year). Merck and Co., Inc., the manufacturer for both 4vHPV and 9vHPV vaccines, plans to continue to produce and make available in the United States the 4vHPV vaccine for at least another year thus no replacement program for any inventory of 4vHPV is being

offered or is available at this time.

## Assessment Feedback Incentives eXchange (AFIX)

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In 2014, AFIX activities were focused on children aged 19 through 35 months. The Alaska Immunization Program is conducting 2015 AFIX activities, which include childhood AFIX and adolescent AFIX visits, which will include reviewing and assessing immunization delivery services and coverage rates of patients aged 13 through 17 years.

Our AFIX webpage is being updated regularly with new information regarding the AFIX process, and provides resource links for health care providers.

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## Perinatal Hepatitis B

The 673rd Medical Group of Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson has been added to the Immunization Action Coalition's (IAC's) Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll, with a reported birth dose rate of 93%. This is the 1st institution to apply and qualify from Alaska.

The Birth Dose Honor Roll recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that report a birth dose coverage rate of 90% or greater (including infants whose parents refuse vaccination) and have implemented written policies to protect all newborns from hepatitis B virus infection prior to hospital discharge. The honor roll is described at the following website: [www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose](http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose)

A primary goal of the Birth Dose Honor Roll is to promote awareness of the importance of the hepatitis B birth dose within the immunization community. The name, location, and vaccination coverage rate of qualifying organizations are published at [www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose/honorees.asp](http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose/honorees.asp). In recognition of their selection, honorees receive a color certificate suitable for framing. In addition, birthing facilities are named in a feature article about birth dose honorees in the weekly email newsletter IAC Express, sent to nearly 50,000 subscribers.

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## Education & Training Resources

[Free Webinar: HPV Vaccination in Alaska](#)

Do you have questions about HPV vaccination or would like more knowledge to guide your patient's decision on immunization?

HPV vaccination in Alaska: safety, benefits and efficacy. A provider's guide to the evidence. June 26th 8:30am – 10:00am

Register online at [www.akcache.org](http://www.akcache.org)

Presented by: Joanie Mayer Hope, MD/Board Certified Gynecologic Oncologist and Stephanie Massay MPH, MT (ASCP)

Nursing contact hours are being provided by the Alaska Nurses Association. Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

Sponsored by: State of Alaska Immunization Program and Let Every Woman Know Alaska. Co-provided by: the Alaska Nurses Association and the Alaska AHEC (Area Health Education Centers)

#### 2015 Pink Book Course

The Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases course (i.e., the Pink Book training) will be held in Tacoma, WA on September 16-17, 2015 at the Hotel Murano. This is a 2-day review of immunization principles, as well as vaccine-preventable diseases and the recommended vaccines to prevent them. The course will feature the most up-to-date immunization information presented by national vaccine experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fourteen Continuing Education credits are available for a wide variety of health professionals. Attendees can also register for several free pre-sessions on topics including HPV, vaccine hesitancy, and the WA State Immunization Information System. Register today at: [www.cdc2day.eventbrite.com](http://www.cdc2day.eventbrite.com).

#### 2015 Alaska Immunization Program Statewide Regional Meetings

The Alaska Immunization Program is planning five statewide regional immunization meetings this fall in place of a single statewide conference in Anchorage, as in previous years. Each regional meeting will be scheduled as one-day events. Meeting locations include: Anchorage/Mat-Su, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Nome. Meeting dates have not been confirmed yet (TBD) but information will be provided as updates become available. The current draft agenda includes the following topics: a review of immunization principles, updates and recommendations, state-supplied vaccine eligibility and financing, and storage and handling. We hope that expanded meeting opportunities will allow more individuals to participate in training, share current information, and explore innovative ideas for improving immunization coverage for all Alaskans.

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