

From: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
To: [Shimer, Sarah E \(HSS\)](#)
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Immune News



Alaska Immunization Program

Regional Workshops

In March and April, Immunization Program staff traveled throughout Alaska offering four-hour regional workshops detailing vaccine eligibility, accountability, and quality assurance measures. If you missed out on the workshops, the presentations are available in [PDF format](#), or in a [recorded webinar format](#).

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Hot Topic: Congratulations Gerri!

After a very successful career as Program Director for the Immunization Program, Gerri Yett is retiring. We wish her the best in her future endeavors and will certainly miss her! Following her retirement May 1, Matt Bobo will serve as acting Program Director.

Top Stories



2017 CDC Champion Award

Congratulations to Alaska's 2017 CDC Champion Award recipient, Jonathan Peterson! Jonathan is the Vaccine Coordinator at the Norton Sound Health Corporation and demonstrates leadership, innovation, and collaboration in his dedication to improving childhood immunization rates. Read more about Jonathan's accomplishments on the [CDC Website!](#)

AVAP

Make sure you are indicating the correct eligibility category when administering

AVAP

vaccines! Adult and pediatric eligibility include state-supplied vaccine. Check out eligibility guidelines that are required for VacTrAK reporting [here](#). For general information about AVAP, please visit www.akvaccine.org.

Izzy the Immunization Dog

Izzy



Izzy the Immunization Dog is available for loan from the Immunization Program. Izzy is a great addition to immunization events, health fairs, and community events promoting immunizations. Send your request to immune@alaska.gov.

Depot Transition

Beginning this summer, the Alaska Epidemiology Vaccine Depot will transition to a third party distributor, McKesson. All ordering and inventory management will continue using VacTrAK. For more information, please contact the Helpline.

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved infants (born to mothers with Hep B needing revaccination after completing the hepatitis B series) could receive just one dose instead of three. The infants born to mothers with Hep B receive three-dose Hep B vaccine series and the hepatitis B immunoglobulin. The infants are then tested and if needed will be revaccinated. Infants who still show inadequate protection after a single additional dose, should receive two additional doses and be retested. Providers are encouraged to have a discussion with families, who have the option of choosing revaccination with an additional three doses instead of the single dose. Data presented indicated that most infants not responding after the initial series of vaccination, do respond after a single additional dose, which saves time and money.

Reminder: the PHBPP Hospital Report Form is available online under the [PHBPP link](#).

The Immunization Program/PHBPP would like to recognize Alaska Regional Hospital for consistently completing the hospital report form when the infants are born to mothers with HBV. Thanks Alaska Regional Hospital! The single-page hospital report form saves on

time and paper received by the PHBPP.

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Health
Immunization Program
3601 C Street, Suite 540
Anchorage, AK 99503
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408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600 · Saint Paul, MN 55102 · 1-800-439-1420

