



Why keeping children and adolescents up to date on routine immunizations is important, even during a pandemic

The COVID 19 pandemic has impacted routinely recommended immunization rates within Alaska and nationally. Lower individual and community rates create possible risk for other epidemics to occur. While a parent/guardian may know their own child's status, they will likely not know how many others within their child's community are up to date with or behind on their immunizations.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e2.htm?deliveryName=USCDC_2070-DM30981

Measures taken to reduce the risk of getting COVID 19 may not prevent one from getting other vaccine-preventable diseases due to their nature and how they are transmitted.

<https://vaccineinformation.org/>

Schools must ensure students are compliant with immunization requirements even if students are not attending lessons or extracurricular activities in a physical school structure. Delaying immunizations during in-person or virtual learning not only increases the risk of disease it will disrupt educational and extracurricular activity participation.

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Pages/school.aspx>

How to stay current or catch up on needed immunizations

Talk with a health care partner to determine immunization needs.

Talk with a health care provider about their COVID 19 safety plans for patients who come to their clinic.

Children in Alaska may receive no cost vaccines from medical providers listed here:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Documents/ssv/StateSuppliedVaccineProviders.pdf>

Have additional questions?

Contact the Alaska Immunization Program

Phone: 907-269-8088 Anchorage or 1-888-430-4321 (toll free)

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