

Keep kids on track with well-child checks and immunizations

Well-child visits are regular checkups that should be free or low-cost. These visits are important for tracking a child's growth and developmental milestones, discussing any concerns about the child's health, and getting recommended vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccine, to prevent illnesses.

We are stressing the importance of getting children up to date on the vaccines they missed before the school year begins including the COVID-19 vaccine. Please continue to identify and schedule patients that are due or overdue for recommended vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine.

Use MIIC to identify children who are behind and call them to the clinic for vaccination. MIIC's assessment reports and client follow-up functions are available to all user roles of immunization providers. Users can track childhood immunization rates for the provider's population, generate a list of due and overdue patients to send reminders, and manage which patients are associated with their clinics. We encourage you to run a report to help get kids back on track with their immunizations.

Pertussis reminder

As we return to normal routines, pertussis is likely to re-emerge. Overlap in symptoms between COVID-19 and pertussis presents increased opportunities for under-recognition of pertussis. Consider pertussis if a patient presents with fits of coughing, post-tussive emesis, or symptoms of the common cold. Pertussis may be misdiagnosed as bronchitis. Although symptoms may be milder in persons who were previously immunized, they can still transmit the disease to others and are often the source of infection to infants.

Prepare for flu vaccine distribution

Flu vaccine distribution is expected to begin next month. There are a few things you can do to prepare. We recommend reviewing your prebook request by following the steps below:

1. Login to [MIIC \(https://miic.health.state.mn.us/miic\)](https://miic.health.state.mn.us/miic)
2. Go to the **Vaccine Management** header on the left-hand side
3. Select request **special event vaccine**
4. From the Event dropdown select **2022-23 MnVFC pediatric influenza vaccine prebook**

Now is a good time to clear out inventory from last season. Please report any expired flu doses by selecting **report nonviable vaccine** in MIIC. If you have not already done so, please contact the MnVFC program if your site or sites in your health system are temporarily or permanently closed. We need your help in ensuring we have the most up-to-date information on clinic closures to avoid shipping flu vaccine to closed sites.

To make sure all MnVFC providers have adequate flu vaccine early in the season, and because different brands and presentations become available at different times, you may not receive all your doses in one shipment. **Sites can expect to receive a few small shipments throughout the distribution season.** We will send out a MnVFC announcement when distribution begins.

Discontinuation of Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Adsorbed (DT) vaccine

Sanofi Pasteur has decided to discontinue production of Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Adsorbed (DT). This decision is based on the minimal demand and need to optimize industrial capacities to meet public health priorities. It is not due to any concern about safety or immunogenicity of DT. The last lot was manufactured in October 2020 with an expiration date of April 2023. It is expected that DT will no longer be available by the end of the year.

Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP) vaccine or a DTaP-containing vaccine is recommended for immunization of infants and children 6 weeks through 6 years of age. Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Adsorbed was used in instances where the pertussis vaccine component is contraindicated, which have decreased since the acellular pertussis products have been used and fewer children have adverse reactions to the pertussis component.

Newly licensed 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for kids

The FDA approved an age expansion of the 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, VAXNEUVANCE (Merck) for children through age 17 years. ACIP voted to recommend that either this PCV-15 or PCV-13 product may be used whenever PCV vaccination is indicated.

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) provider billing for vaccine counseling visits

In an effort to improve COVID-19 and routine vaccination rates, Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) providers can now bill Medical Assistance for stand-alone vaccination counseling visits. Patients should not be directly billed for these visits.

These conversations help families learn about vaccines from trusted health care providers as well as address their vaccine questions and concerns. Health care providers can counsel for COVID-19 and other routine vaccines for children and adults, and this can be done in-person or via telehealth. Vaccine counseling stand-alone visits cannot be billed separately if vaccine counseling is a required component of another service provided in the same visit. To learn more, visit the [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) page of the MHCP Provider Manual \(www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DH_S16_150092#vc\)](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DH_S16_150092#vc).

Broadcast Fax service ending

The ability to receive Got Your Shots? News by fax will end Aug. 31, 2022. The good news is that the newsletter will continue to be available by email.

It's easy, go to [Got Your Shots? News \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/gys/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/gys/index.html) and click on the "Subscribe to Got Your Shots? News" link at the top of the page to sign up to receive an email when the latest issue is available. You can unsubscribe at any time.