

MnVFC Announcement

Date: August 23, 2024

To: MnVFC Providers

From: MnVFC Program

Re: **Measles Outbreak Vaccine Recommendation**

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released a [Health Advisory: Metro Measles Outbreak and Vaccine Recommendations \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/2024/aug22measles.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/2024/aug22measles.pdf) recommending that providers that care for patients in communities with high numbers of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children living in the Twin Cities metropolitan area should consider accelerating the two-dose MMR series for children 12 months and older:

- Administer the first dose of MMR on (or as soon as possible after) the first birthday, followed by a second dose 28 days later.
- Administer the second MMR dose now if it has been at least 28 days since the first MMR dose and no other live virus injectable vaccines (i.e., varicella vaccine) have been administered in the past 28 days.

Strongly recommend vaccination:

Measles spreads rapidly, putting anyone who isn't fully vaccinated at risk. Combined with missed well-child visits during the pandemic, this has led to dangerously low MMR coverage rates. When measles is present, hesitant parents may choose to vaccinate due to the increased risk. This is an ideal time to improve your clinic's MMR vaccination coverage. While parents often seek advice from family, friends, and online sources, they consistently view their health care provider as the most trusted source for vaccine information. Your strong recommendation is crucial for vaccine acceptance.

Additional resources to support your conversations with families:

- Many parents need reassurance that the MMR vaccine is safe and will protect their child. The following resources provide communication strategies and tips for effectively addressing questions from patients: [CDC: Talking with Parents about Vaccines \(www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/hcp/conversation-tips/index.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/hcp/conversation-tips/index.html).
- For more information for parents, including community-centered measles messages, visit [Measles \(Rubeola\) Basics \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html).

Outreach to patients that are due or overdue for vaccines:

Health care providers are encouraged to use the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) to assess the MMR status of all pediatric patients and recall children that need MMR vaccination. Include both younger children and older, school-age children in recall activities, as many missed earlier opportunities to catch up on vaccinations. The Client Follow Up and List features in MIIC can be used in tandem to understand vaccination status of a specific list of clients. Visit [Using Client Follow-Up \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/cfu.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/cfu.html) and [How to Use Lists in MIIC \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/uselists.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/uselists.html) for more information.

MDH can also provide support with sending text messages to patients in need of a dose of MMR vaccine. The text messages are available in English, Somali, Spanish and Hmong. For more information, contact health.miictexting@state.mn.us.

Things to keep in mind when recalling families into clinics:

- Ensure access to no-cost vaccine appointments. Consider offering vaccine-only appointments during the day, on the weekends and in the evening.
- Regularly check each patient's immunization record and strongly recommend and administer vaccines to those who are due or overdue.

MEASLES OUTBREAK VACCINE RECOMMENDATION

- Be on heightened alert for patients presenting to care with symptoms clinically compatible with measles (rash, high fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis), especially when international travel is involved. Suspicion level should be higher in patients presenting with measles symptoms who are unvaccinated.
- If you are billing Medicaid for the vaccine administration fee, you may also bill for vaccine counseling as you have these conversations. For more information, visit [DHS: Immunizations and Vaccinations \(www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_136660#mnvfc\)](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_136660#mnvfc).

Please report all suspected measles cases and exposures to MDH at (651) 201-5414. If you need additional MnVFC MMR vaccine for this outreach, please order more doses in MIIC.

MnVFC Program

651-201-5522 or 1-800-657-3970

www.health.state.mn.us/vfc

health.mnvfc@state.mn.us