

I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES
AGAINST COVID-19

A project led by the Illinois Chapter
of the American Academy of Pediatrics



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

Pfizer Bivalent Boosters for Children Under Five

A bivalent booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available to more children under the age of 5. Children 6 months to 4 years of age who previously completed a 3-dose **monovalent** Pfizer-BioNTech primary series can receive a bivalent booster at least two months after receiving their last dose. Children in this age group who received a primary series consisting of two monovalent doses and one bivalent Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are NOT eligible for a booster. You can view more details in the AAP's [reference guide](#) and in I-VAC's [scheduling & dosing charts](#).

Please keep in mind:

- Monovalent Moderna products expired as of 4/9/23.
 - Pfizer monovalent products will be the only option for primary doses in those under 12 (and are also set to start expiring in May 2023).
- Keep an eye out for more guidance.

2

FDA/CDC Response to Misinformation

In response to concerns presented by Florida's surgeon general, the CDC and the FDA published a letter addressing misinformation circulating around COVID-19 vaccines. The letter addresses concerns about increases in Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports, acknowledging that the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for the vaccines require that certain adverse events be reported, and that a report alone cannot determine whether a vaccine caused the adverse event. Additionally, the letter confirms that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and that vaccination reduces morbidity and mortality. Meetings to review safety and efficacy data are regularly convened and contribute to the identification of legitimate adverse reactions, such as with concerns that surfaced about the Janssen vaccine in April 2021. You can find more on vaccine misinformation and disinformation in [this article](#) from Your Local Epidemiologist, Katelyn Jetelina, or from I-VAC's [misinformation special session](#).

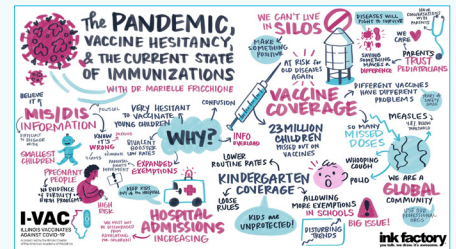
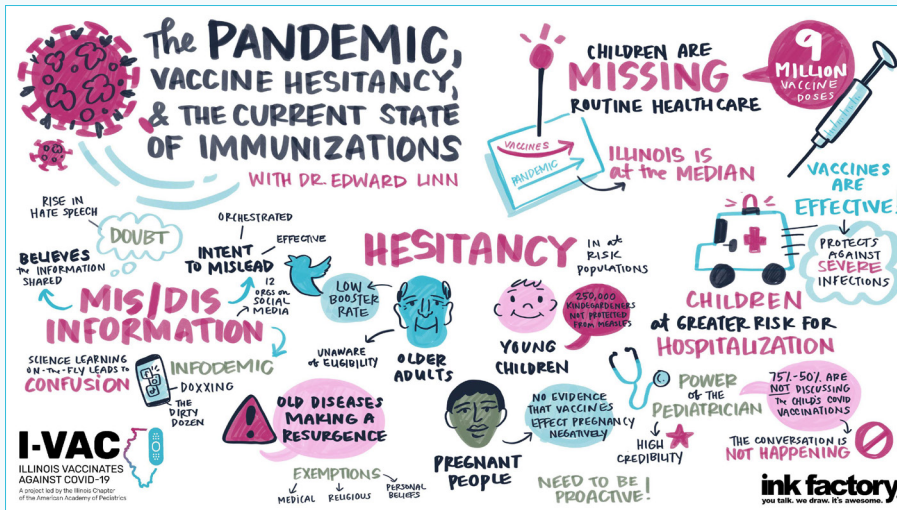
3

No Plans for Additional Bivalent Booster at this Time

Some of those who feel they are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 infection have been requesting additional bivalent doses. While the [FDA](#) was considering recommending an additional dose for those over a certain age or for those with immunocompromising conditions, this has not been approved. The CDC has clarified their ["up-to-date" definition](#), specifying that if you have received an updated booster dose, you are considered up-to-date and that there is not currently a recommendation for a second bivalent booster dose. Among the general population, rates of bivalent booster uptake remains overwhelmingly low, with only [16.5%](#) of the U.S. population having received a bivalent booster dose.

CLINICIANS' EXPERIENCES WITH VACCINE HESITANCY AND MISINFORMATION

At the end of March, ICAAP hosted two special sessions to provide a space for clinicians and those involved in vaccine programs to reflect on where we have been and where we are going regarding vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and disinformation. Ink Factory artist, Alison Vellas, captured the information shared during the presentations and discussion and created illustrations. An example is below. You can view the other illustrations and take a closer look at them [here](#). We are excited to incorporate the themes from this discussion into future educational and outreach campaigns! Thank you to everyone who participated.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

VIRTUAL COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

April 13th, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. We've updated our content for this session to include more on vaccine misinformation/disinformation, commercialization of vaccines, and the end of the public health emergency.

[Register here.](#)

LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

ECHO Learning Collaborative – Pediatric Populations:

April 4th, April 18th, May 2nd.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

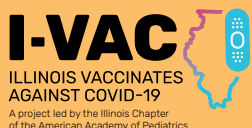
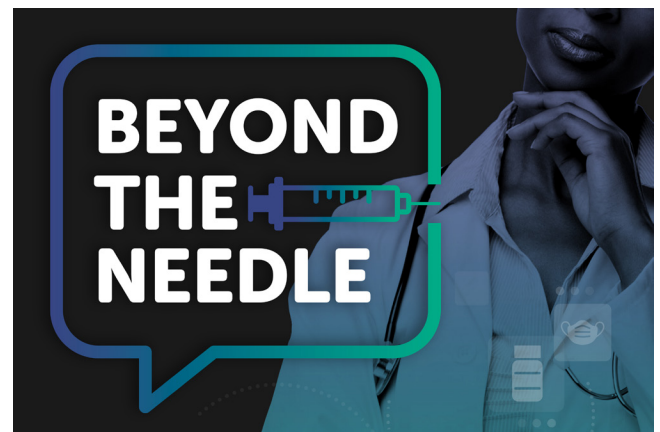
ECHO Learning Collaborative – Adult Populations:

April 12th, April 26th, May 10th.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

BEYOND THE NEEDLE

I-VAC's podcast **Beyond the Needle** is back with new episodes! The most recently released episode dives into physicians' reflections on how to move forward after the COVID-19 pandemic. Listen to this episode or catch up on previous episodes [here](#).



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