

# I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES  
AGAINST COVID-19

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



## I-VAC NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

### VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

In April and May 2023, updates to the COVID-19 vaccination schedules were made. The changes simplified the schedules for some age groups and less COVID-19 products are being used, as monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized for use. You can visit the [CDC for the most up-to-date clinical guidance](#) and view the COCA call [Updated Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Use](#) held May 11, 2023.

Additionally, ICAAP partnered with CDPH & IDPH on April 25th to host a webinar on COVID-19 vaccine updates (note this was held prior to the May 2023 changes). View the [recording here](#) and the [slides here](#). For scheduling/dosing charts and additional resources, visit the [I-VAC website](#).

#### Getting paid for bivalent COVID-19 vaccine administration:

Based on the updated CDC guidelines, six new immunization administration CPT codes have been created. The Illinois Medicaid COVID-19 Fee Schedule was updated May 12 and can be viewed [here](#). More information on CPT codes from the AAP is [here](#).

#### COVID-19 vaccine ordering:

IL providers are still able to place orders for both Pfizer and Moderna bivalent vaccines from the existing U.S. stockpile at no cost. This is anticipated to last through summer.

2

#### Outcomes for Pregnant Patients with COVID-19 Infection During Birth

A recently published [study](#) reviewed the outcomes of over two million deliveries from April 2020–December 2020 to study the effects of COVID-19 infection on adverse pregnancy outcomes. The study showed that pregnant people with COVID-19 were at much higher risk of issues like respiratory distress, cardiac arrest, shock, and sepsis compared to those without infection. Additionally, the mortality risk for pregnant people with a COVID-19 infection at the time of delivery was 14 times greater than pregnant people without a COVID-19 infection. Vaccination during pregnancy is proven to be safe for mom and baby and may help to reduce or prevent delivery complications associated with COVID-19 infection.





### 3

## HHS Program to Maintain Access to COVID-19 Care for the Uninsured

Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines (which is the transition from direct government purchase of these vaccines to purchases by public and private payers) is expected in the fall of this year. Some questions remain about the details of this [change](#). However, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced a [program](#) that will help maintain access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments for the uninsured. Through this program, government-purchased COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed to local health departments and HRSA-supported health centers. Additionally, partnerships with pharmacy chains will allow COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to be given at no cost to the uninsured. Stay tuned for more as things continue to unfold.

## END OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY (PHE)

On May 11, 2023, the U.S. ended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for the COVID-19 pandemic. The end of the PHE doesn't mean COVID-19 is over, but there are some changes – including to how COVID-19 data is being reported. See [Illinois-specific information](#). IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra joined Governor Pritzker and other elected officials and healthcare leaders recognize the end of the PHE and declare May 11 as “Illinois Public Health and Health Care Hero Day.” See the [tribute video](#) from Governor Pritzker.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



### IN-PERSON COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

Friday, June 16th, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

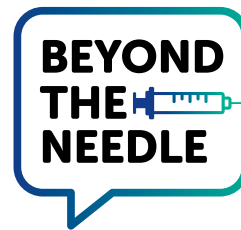
[Register here.](#)



### ADVISOR OFFICE HOURS

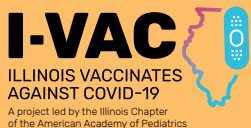
Thursday, June 1, 8 a.m.–9 a.m.

[Join here.](#)



## BEYOND THE NEEDLE

I-VAC's podcast **Beyond the Needle** is back with new episodes! In the most recently released episode, physicians share their experiences working with patients that have long COVID symptoms. [Listen to this episode or catch up on previously recorded episodes.](#)



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

May 2023

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[illinoisvaccinates.com](http://illinoisvaccinates.com)

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[@illinoisvaccinates](#)



[@ILVaccinates](#)