

I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES
AGAINST COVID-19

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



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

HHS Commercialization Transition Guide Issued

July 6, 2023, per the CDC: Guidance from HHS provides direction to those participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program as the USG stops distributing COVID-19 vaccines through its current ordering system and the vaccines transition to traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment of COVID-19 vaccines. The document also includes information on:

- Exceptional orders after full-scale ordering closes
- Guidance on inventory and disposal management of vaccine and ancillary supplies
- Data reporting requirements
- CDC programs for uninsured individuals
- Anticipated vaccine schedule for fall
- Planning considerations

Additional guidance from CDC will become available in the days ahead.

Guide: [HHS Commercialization Transition Guide-Sunsetting the US Government COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program- July 6, 2023 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Check back here for updates: [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance | CDC](#)

2

COVID-19 Vaccination and Hospitalization

A [May 2023 study](#) showed that lack of COVID-19 vaccinations was associated with a higher risk of hospitalization compared with those that were vaccinated and boosted. The study out of Alberta, Canada showed that between September 2021 and January 2022, unvaccinated individuals had a 10x higher risk of hospitalization compared to those that are vaccinated and a 21x higher risk compared to those that were also boosted. Additionally, data on hospitalization rates in a total of 6,223 people of varying vaccination status was collected: 3,835 of the hospitalized cases were unvaccinated; compared to 1,907 hospitalizations in the vaccinated population and 481 in the boosted population. Among the unvaccinated, patients between the ages of 60 and 69 were the most at risk. These avoidable hospitalizations had large economic impacts, less so among the vaccinated and boosted populations.



3

Targeted Vaccine Messaging to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Youth

A [2021 survey](#) conducted in Chicago assessed the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine messaging on parental intention to vaccinate children and adolescents. The most effective messages among a sample of 898 parents were those that highlighted that other trusted parents have vaccinated their kids. Messaging about vaccine safety and testing was somewhat effective, but less likely to be associated with increased vaccination after adjusting for population characteristics. Significant differences in messaging effectiveness between races were not noted. Ultimately, Chicago providers should consider using trusted parent messaging when promoting COVID-19 vaccines with their patients.



4

FDA: Fall COVID-19 Vaccine

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) [voted to recommend an updated COVID-19 vaccine](#) composition beginning in fall 2023. This new composition would be a monovalent product, incorporating an XBB-lineage of the Omicron variant. [According to Your Local Epidemiologist, Katelyn Jetelina](#), returning to a monovalent vaccine is expected to be beneficial because the original COVID-19 variant is no longer circulating. Removing this strain from the vaccine composition allows us to focus on the variants that are currently circulating (XBB). Additionally, some studies have found that monovalent vaccines may be more effective than bivalent vaccines. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected to review and make a recommendation regarding these products once they become available in late summer or early fall.



COVID-19 VACCINATION NO LONGER REQUIRED IN CMS HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [published a final rule](#) to remove the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for employees that work at CMS-certified healthcare facilities. This requirement has been in place since November 2021 and while vaccination is still encouraged, a mandate is no longer considered a necessary part of managing the pandemic. The vaccine requirement was also dropped for federal employees and international travelers when the public health emergency expired on May 11, 2023. The CMS rule will go into effect on August 4, 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

VIRTUAL COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

Thursday, August 24, 2023,
8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

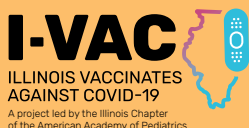
[Register here.](#)

BEYOND THE NEEDLE

New episodes of Beyond the Needle are currently being released. Find an episode you are interested in [here](#) or tune in wherever you listen to your podcasts! CME is also available.

ECHO LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

COVID-19 learning collaboratives for those serving both pediatric and adult populations are returning in September! Mark your calendar or [register today!](#)



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