



# I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES  
AGAINST COVID-19

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



## I-VAC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

### COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

#### Schools Supporting COVID Vaccination

A [review](#) analyzing data from four different research studies funded by the National Institutes of Health Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Return to School initiatives compiled a list of seven themes that commonly are seen when considering COVID-19 vaccinations in underserved school communities. The data came from semi-structured interviews that were part of each of the four studies. Students from the families interviewed came from upstate New York, an agricultural community in Yakima, Washington, a school district in Kansas, and schools in Florida. Students were from a variety of different backgrounds including immigrant and minority backgrounds. Themes found include concern over potential side effects, vaccine development, misinformation, negative intent of the vaccine, vaccine effectiveness, timing of vaccine administration, fear of needles, and mistrust. As vaccine hesitancy continues to rise, we must work to understand the barriers between children and vaccinations. Schools play a role in educating the public on vaccine development and side effects, allowing for specific questions, and promoting health literacy in parents and adolescents.



2

## COVID Cases Increasing

Emergency room visits and COVID-19 test positivity [levels have begun rising](#) after months of very low COVID levels. Wastewater tracking systems are also showing slightly increased levels. It is expected that these increases may be due in part to more time spent indoors, because of extreme heat across the country. This underscores the importance of looking ahead to what is coming in terms of COVID-19 vaccines for the fall and winter seasons. In June, both Moderna and Pfizer BioNTech submitted their applications for their monovalent Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines to the FDA. Novavax also made a similar announcement in mid-July and plans to have their vaccines ready in September, in line with the expected timeline established in a [letter](#) from HHS to vaccine manufacturers.

3

## COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization

**Ordering for bivalent COVID-19 vaccines has ended as of August 3, 2023. Providers who do not have enough vaccine stocked to serve their patients through the end of September should reach out to IDPH or CDPH based on their jurisdiction.** Monovalent Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines are expected to be available through the commercial market by the end of September. Keep up with COVID-19 vaccine commercialization news by joining biweekly calls with ICAAP, IDPH, and CDPH.

Fridays at 12pm, next session is August 18th. Register through the QR code or at [illinoisap.org/events](https://illinoisap.org/events). See a recording and the slides from session 1 held on 8.4.2023 at [illinoisap.org/covid-19](https://illinoisap.org/covid-19)



SCAN ME TO REGISTER

# PEDIATRIC READINESS OF US EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#) evaluated the readiness of US emergency departments to care for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. With children contributing to 25% of all ER visits, ensuring emergency room readiness is essential to children's survival. The evaluation measured emergency department (ED) readiness in 3,557 hospitals across the nation from 2013-2021 and featured a 92-question survey with criteria defined by the AAP. This survey was modified based on feedback from 2020 and distributed again. Though most hospitals surveyed were of low pediatric volume and saw less than 10 children per day, the results still offered important considerations for ED readiness during the pandemic, as the survey did not show any major overall improvements to ED readiness compared to the 2013 survey. However, there has been improvement in specific domains such as data management and quality improvement plans, which are associated with better pediatric readiness. Even as the pandemic wanes, pediatric care is still very necessary as many children delayed care during peak pandemic times.



## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR VACCINE SUPPLY IN SEVERE WEATHER

This summer, we've seen a number of severe weather events in Illinois and across the US. These various weather-related issues like fires, floods, tornadoes, and extreme heat may lead to power outages. To safeguard the vaccine supply for patients and fiscal responsibility, it's crucial to take necessary precautions. Immunize.org offers resources to assist clinical staff in evaluating [vaccine storage](#) and implementing [emergency procedures](#) in the office. Some of the tips include:

- 1 Assign a vaccine storage "master" and a back-up person to handle storage issues when the "master" is unavailable.
- 2 Use visual cues to remind staff which vaccines go in the freezer and refrigerator.
- 3 Ensure the temperature monitoring device is set accurately to record vaccine temperatures every 30 minutes.
- 4 In case of temperature deviations, assign someone to follow the protocol to save vaccines, especially for offices participating in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.
- 5 Follow the first in, first out rule for vaccine usage and check for expired vaccines.
- 6 Put signs by electrical outlets indicating, "DO NOT UNPLUG" or "DO NOT STOP POWER."

To read the full article, refer [here](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### VIRTUAL COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

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

[Register here.](#)

### VIRTUAL COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP FOR OBGYNS

September 28, 2023 from 8 a.m.–10 a.m.

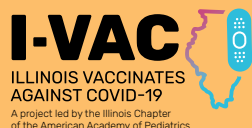
[Register here.](#)

### BEYOND THE NEEDLE PODCAST

The most recent episode of the Beyond the Needle Podcast reviews trust erosion & vaccine skepticism in the post-COVID world. [Tune in here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts! CME is also available.

### ECHO LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

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



ILLINOIS VACCINATES  
AGAINST COVID-19  
A project led by the Illinois Chapter  
of the American Academy of Pediatrics

I-VAC  
NEWSLETTER

August 2023

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE

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

JOIN US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA



[@illinoisvaccinates](#)



[@ILVaccinates](#)