

I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES
AGAINST COVID-19



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

Pfizer and Moderna bivalent COVID-19 [booster doses](#) have been authorized by the FDA and recommended for use in those 12 years and older. The bivalent vaccine helps generate protection against two variants of the virus; the original COVID-19 virus and the Omicron BA.4/5 variant, which is now the cause of most COVID-19 infections in the U.S. The Pfizer bivalent booster is authorized for use in those 12 years and older and the Moderna bivalent booster is authorized for those 18 years and older *who have completed their primary series*. The original (monovalent) boosters are no longer authorized for use in those 12 years and older. The original monovalent vaccine formulations have NOT changed and there are no changes to the COVID-19 vaccine schedules for children ages 6 months through 11 years old. [Updated dosing and scheduling charts](#) are available. A bivalent booster *may* be authorized for younger age groups (5 years and older?) in the coming weeks or months.

2

Novavax 12+

The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized for use in those 12 years and older as of August 19, 2022 (it was previously authorized for 18 years and older). This protein-based vaccine expands COVID-19 vaccine options for those interested in a more “traditional” vaccine formulation.

3

A [safety review](#) of Pfizer’s COVID-19 booster dose for 5–11 years old revealed that the most commonly reported adverse event was vaccine administration errors. Of 581 reports to VAERS for this age group and vaccine dose, 578 were classified as non-serious, and 413 of those were related to vaccine administration errors. These events may include errors such as product preparation issues, incorrect dose administered, or product administered to patient of inappropriate age. To help prevent these errors, providers should use the resources available in [this toolkit](#), including printable dosage charts and storage, handling, and preparation information.





COVID-19 VACCINATION INTENTIONS, CONCERNS, AND FACILITATORS AMONG U.S. PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS THROUGH 4 YEARS

As of September 5, 2022, only 8% of children ages 6 months–4 years in Illinois have received at least 1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This is concerning, as it is lower vaccine coverage at the same point in eligibility as older, previously approved age groups.

A [study](#) conducted among parents of children younger than 5 years old found that only half indicated that they would “definitely” or “probably” vaccinate their child once they became eligible. One-fifth of parents indicated they would vaccinate within three months of them becoming eligible for vaccination. Top concerns include vaccine safety and efficacy, while receiving information on safety and efficacy serves as a facilitator for vaccination. Doctor’s offices continue to be the most trusted vaccination site for parents of younger children and a pediatrician’s strong recommendation is a driving factor in a parent’s decision to vaccinate. Please use this information to help advise your vaccine activities and talk with parents about COVID-19 vaccine whenever time allows.



SOME PARENTS MAY NOT KNOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE VACCINATED!

VACCINE REPORT CARDS

County-level pediatric vaccine report cards are being sent monthly by ICAAP to local health departments, hospital leadership, vaccine coordinators, and clinicians throughout the state starting in September. These report cards show the percentage of eligible children ages 6 months–4 years, 5–11 years, and 12–17 years in each county who have received each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The hope is that this information will be useful in understanding local vaccine coverage. The report cards will also include action items to help drive vaccine uptake. If you would like to receive this report card for your county, please reach out to Caroline Werenskjold at cwerenskjold@illinoisAAP.com.



WHEN A COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORD CARD IS FULL:

- 1 Complete a new card for the patient
- 2 Staple both cards together
- 3 Encourage the patient to photograph both cards in case they become separated
- 4 Both cards should be brought to future vaccination appointments



Patients can also download their vaccine records with [VaxVerify](#).



ASSOCIATION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY WITH INCIDENCE OF SARS COV-2 INFECTION IN INFANTS

It is strongly recommended that pregnant persons receive a COVID-19 vaccine, as their pregnancy may put them at risk for severe side effects from COVID-19. In addition, it appears that vaccination might not only provide more protection for the mother, but also for baby. In a [study](#) completed in Norway, infants of mothers vaccinated during pregnancy had a lower risk of COVID-19 infection compared with infants of unvaccinated mothers.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

Friday, September 23rd from 8 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

[Register here today!](#)

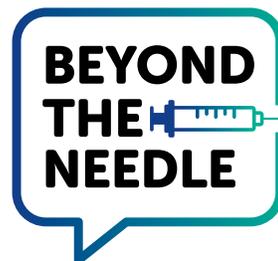
OFFICE HOURS

Our [office hours](#) offer opportunities for providers to ask any of their COVID-19 vaccine implementation questions in a casual, virtual setting. Join us for the whole hour or for 5 minutes on one of these days: 9/22, 9/27, 10/4, 10/14.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) ECHO Learning Collaborative - Pediatric Populations. October 11th 5:30–6:30 p.m.

[Register here today!](#)



BEYOND THE NEEDLE

New episodes of the Beyond the Needle podcast are out now! Check them out on the I-VAC [website](#) or on your favorite podcast platform.

