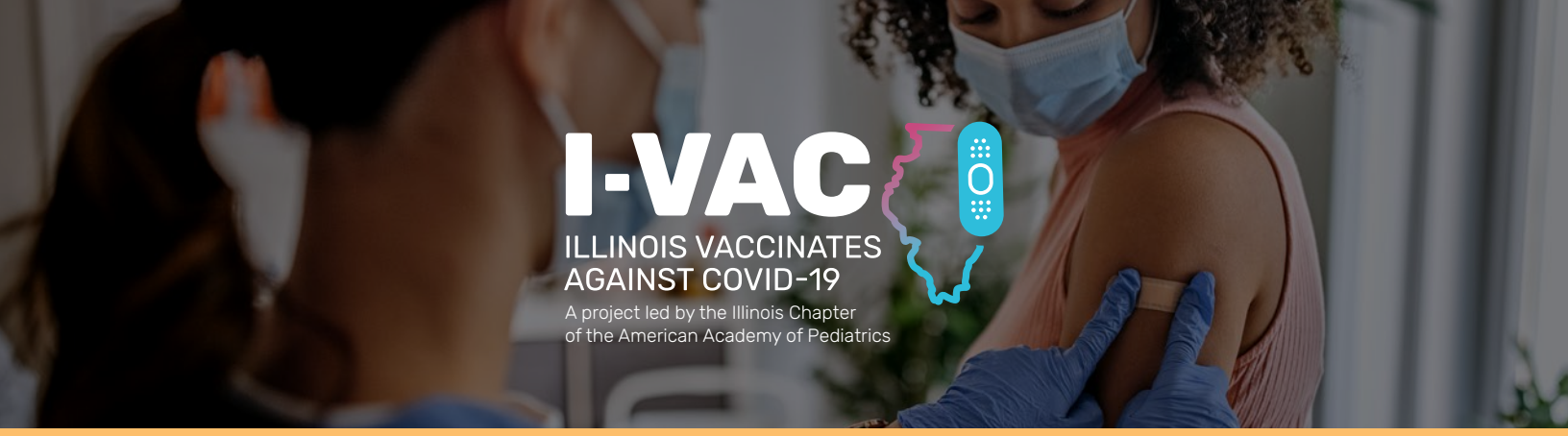


I-VAC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

As of 10/12/22, bivalent or "updated" boosters have been authorized by both the FDA and CDC for use in children 5 years and older. The new Pfizer updated booster is authorized for use in those ages 5-11 who have completed their primary series and the Moderna updated booster is authorized for use in those ages 6 year and older who have completed their primary series. Age-appropriate updated boosters can be administered at least two months after a person's last COVID-19 vaccine. With this authorization, Pfizer's monovalent booster is **no longer authorized for use in those ages 5–11.** Learn more through these fact sheets:

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 5 through 11 Years of Age
Dilute Before Use

Download Fact Sheet

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 12 Years of Age and Older
Do Not Dilute

Download Fact Sheet

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) Booster Dose for 6 Years of Age and Older

Download Fact Sheet

2

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) acknowledges a study that has been published which identifies a non-clinically significant correlation between COVID-19 vaccination and an increase in menstrual cycle length. The average increase is by less than one day, is temporary, and typically resolves within two cycles. A change in menstrual cycle length of up to 8 days is considered normal. ACOG recommends that everyone 6 months and older receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

3

The AAP has released their 2022-2023 Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children. This guidance urges everyone 6 months and older to receive a flu vaccine as soon as possible, preferably before Halloween. Families are encouraged not to underestimate the impact of flu or COVID-19, as both can have serious, deadly impacts on children. Flu vaccines can safely be co-administered with COVID-19 and other vaccines, which is recommended to avoid missing doses. You can also refer to ICAAP's flu toolkit for additional guidance and outreach materials.

BEYOND THE NEEDLE

New Beyond the Needle podcast episodes are being regularly released. Listen to the most recent episodes here and check out the upcoming episodes below!

- 13. Challenges of Different Practice Settings
- 14. Compromising with Immunocompromised Patients
- 15. Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination in Adult Populations
- 16. Long COVID – What We Know Podcast Ep

COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

gain knowledge

Clinical guidance around COVID-19 vaccines has and continues to change. Ensure your facility and staff are up to date on COVID-19 vaccine best practices.

connect with peers

While gaining skills related to COVID-19 vaccine administration and distribution. Learn strategies for overcoming vaccine hesitancy through culturally and linguistically appropriate methods.

get free CME/CE

Illinois State Medical Society

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is accredited by the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics designates each live conference for a maximum of 4.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Nurses and Nurse Practitioners can submit Certificates of Attendance to their accrediting board to claim credit for participation in the live conference.

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2022
9AM TO 2PM
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

MALCOLM X COLLEGE

1900 W JACKSON BLVD, CHICAGO, IL 60612

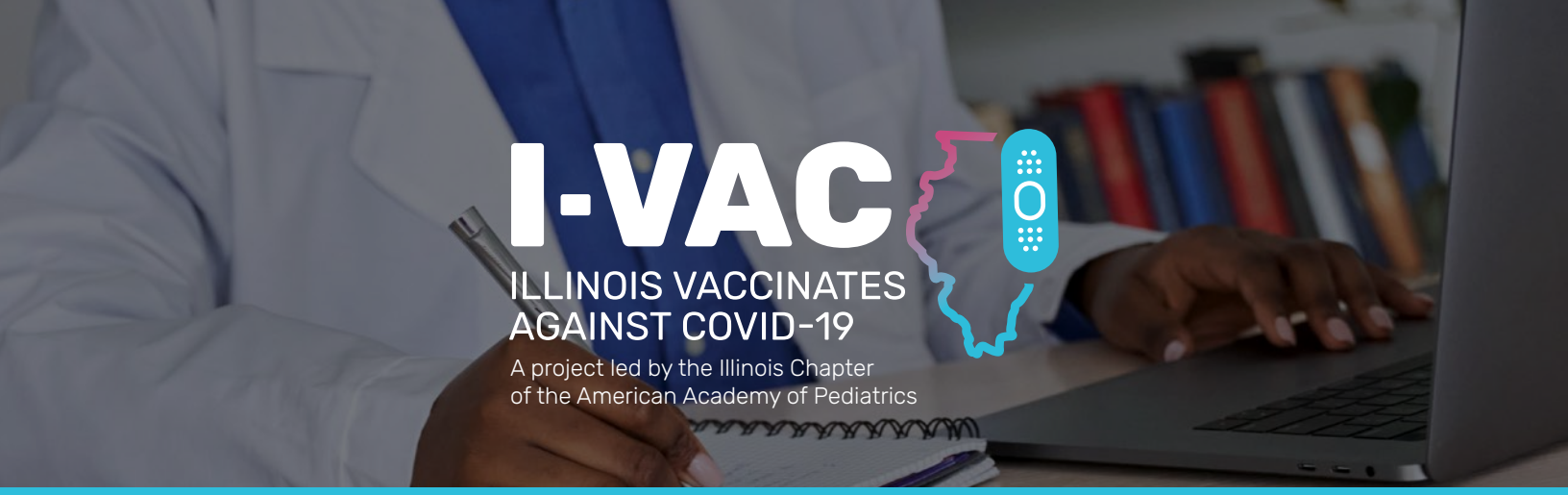
REGISTER AT

ILLINOISAAP.ORG/EVENTS
OR

SCAN ME

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

CDPH
Chicago Department of Public Health



I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES AGAINST COVID-19

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

LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

TACKLING IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES TOGETHER

Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) supports providers and provider organizations as they implement immunization services into their workflows to ensure all eligible age groups in Illinois are vaccinated against COVID-19.

ECHO Chicago at the University of Chicago is hosting bi-weekly, one-hour, interactive sessions via Zoom. These sessions provide a forum for healthcare providers to engage with peers and subject matter experts to help solve challenges related to COVID-19 testing, mitigation, vaccination and management. Providers have an opportunity to present cases or operational challenges for discussion with experts. These sessions are tailored to providers serving different patient populations.

Providers are not required to attend each session, but can drop in as their schedule allows, or when they need additional guidance or implementation support.

Learn More

Scan the QR code or visit the following link to learn more about our learning collaboratives:

illinoisvaccinates.com/learning-collaboratives

Sign Up Today!

Use the following links to register for upcoming sessions:

bit.ly/adult-populations bit.ly/pediatric-populations

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Sessions are scheduled from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 19 Adult Populations
- 25 Pediatric Populations

NOVEMBER

- 02 Adult Populations
- 08 Pediatric Populations
- 16 Adult Populations
- 22 Pediatric Populations
- 30 Adult Populations

DECEMBER

- 06 Pediatric Populations

IllinoisVaccinates.com

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Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

ECHO CHICAGO

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians

Funding for I-VAC is provided by the Office of Disease Control, through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SIROTA

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination rates are low as we enter an unpredictable fall and winter season. Vaccination is an important tool as we start to spend more time indoors with less disease transmission protocols in place. ICAAP Immunizations Director, Stephanie Atella, interviewed Dr. Susan Sirota, Chair of PediaTrust, LLC, who has accomplished great COVID-19 vaccination rates in her practice to learn more about what she and her colleagues are doing. Read excerpts from the conversation below or check out the entire interview here.

Can you go into more detail about what a culture of supporting COVID-19 vaccines looks like?

Every pediatric practice is struggling with staffing. We know this. So, we had to create an organized, efficient process for vaccinating. We prioritized that. We have pictures of staff being vaccinated posted on our social media. Many of us have COVID-19 vaccine stickers on our laptops that patients and families can see. We have marketing materials, some we made and some we take from ICAAP or I-VAC toolkits, in our office and on social media. We send email notifications to patients, and we even have vaccine information on our hold message.

So, we have worked to create consistent messaging from the top to the bottom in our spaces and I really believe that is key. Everyone at our office understands the message we want to convey around COVID-19 vaccines – the nurses, front desk staff, schedulers, MAs and all the doctors. We also require staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for all our patient-facing staff. Not only does this make our patients feel safe in our offices, but we ensure a team culture that is supportive of giving all children COVID-19 vaccines.

What kind of things are you doing to ensure staff stay up to date with the changes that keep coming out around these vaccines?

We have townhalls for staff. They are held during the day when we know staff can attend and they are also recorded and posted to our staff hub for those who cannot make it. They are not required, but we get great attendance, and we hold them as needed to make sure that everyone knows what the clinical guidelines state.

You must create vaccine champions at your clinic, and it doesn't have to be the clinician. In fact, maybe it shouldn't be since pediatricians are exhausted. Empower people in your office to be that for you.

What is something you want your peers who are not vaccinating in their spaces to know?

This might not be everyone's favorite thing to hear, but from a business perspective, this is an opportunity. It took long hard work to get payments for routine vaccination administration to go from $6 to $16 dollars – and we really thank ICAAP for making that happen – but, these vaccines are paid almost 3 times that amount. Relatively, that's such a high payment, so there is revenue to be made. It is kind of unbelievable actually. It just makes sense to do this on so many levels.

Also, ICAAP has tremendous resources, and we make sure that someone from our office goes to all the trainings or webinars that you hold around COVID-19 vaccines so we stay informed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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: 10/20, 10/25, 11/2.

IN-PERSON COVID-19 VACCINE BOOTCAMP

Thursday, November 3rd from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Register here today!