

I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES
AGAINST COVID-19

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



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

COVID-19 a Leading Cause of Pediatric Deaths

COVID-19 ranked as the eighth [leading cause of death](#) between April 2020 and August 2022 for children ages 0-19 in the United States. When looking at only disease-related causes of death (not accidents, assaults, or suicide), COVID-19 becomes the FIFTH leading cause of death in this age group. Although the pediatric COVID-19 mortality rate is low, it is important to understand the impact of COVID-19 in the context of other pediatric deaths. Also remember, it is rare for kids to die from any cause. In the U.S., children continue to be the least vaccinated group against COVID-19, with only 5% of children under five years old and 32% of children 5-11 years old having completed their primary series. 58% of children 12-17 years old have [completed their primary series](#). Providers should continue to recommend that children and families complete all COVID-19 vaccines they are eligible for. Making this recommendation and being prepared to discuss how vaccination benefits outweigh the risk with parents and guardians is important.



2

Remaining Up-to-Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Impact on COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality

We know that protection from COVID-19 following the completion of the primary vaccination series wanes over time – that is why we need boosters. A [recent study](#) published in CDC's MMWR examined the effectiveness of a bivalent COVID-19 booster compared to the monovalent booster or no booster at all in preventing infection and death over time among people ages 12 years and older. The study found that those with bivalent boosters had greater protection from COVID-19 infection and death than both un-boosted and the monovalent boosted groups. More information is needed to understand the longevity of protection, but the CDC and AAP continue to strongly recommend that everyone stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines by receiving a bivalent booster if eligible.

AVAILABILITY OF COVID-19 VACCINE PRODUCTS

MEETINGS AND UPDATES ON COVID-19 VACCINES

Both the Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee ([VRBPAC](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) have demonstrated support for harmonizing primary and booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Harmonizing means using bivalent products only. **You must continue to follow the current CDC guidelines and vaccine schedules on which COVID-19 products are to be used and when. This may be a challenge given the following update on ordering:**

Some Monovalent Vaccine Products Expiring and No Longer Available to Order

Moderna:

- All Moderna *monovalent* products for those 6 years and older are set to expire at the beginning of April, **without plans to extend the shelf-life**. The Moderna 6-11 years and 12+ years monovalent products ordered in the next few weeks will be short-dated with expirations in early April.
- The last time to order Moderna monovalent products for ages 6+ from [IDPH](#) (sites OUTSIDE of Chicago) was 3/13/23.
- Chicago providers should follow [CDPH guidance](#). Chicago shipping of Moderna *monovalent* products ended 3/5/23 for ages 12+ and 3/12/23 for ages 6-11.
- Moderna *bivalent* products will still be available to order for all age groups. Due to a limited supply of this vaccine for the under 5 age group, the minimum order quantity is being reduced from 100 doses to 20 doses. Ancillary kits will still be shipped to support 100 doses, so please opt out of receiving ancillary kits when placing vaccine orders if you have enough supplies.

Providers who are still seeking Moderna monovalent products for these age groups should check the [State Reallocation Tool](#).

Pfizer:

- Pfizer *monovalent* products will be the only option to complete primary series vaccination for ages 6-11.
- Pfizer *monovalent* products and Novavax are available to be ordered as a primary series option for ages 12+.
- There is no official guidance from IDPH on ordering monovalent Pfizer products. CDPH has released the following information regarding Pfizer expiration dates and shipping deadlines:

Monovalent Vaccine	Date when all USG doses expire	End of Shipping (due to <30 days of shelf-life)
Pfizer Peds (5-11, monovalent)	5/21/23	5/21/23
Pfizer Under 5 (monovalent)	7/2/23	6/25/23
Pfizer (12+, monovalent)	8/6/23	7/3/23

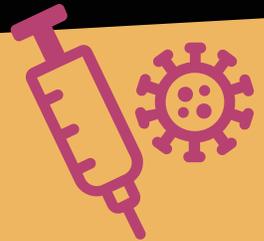


Please use the CDC's guidance on Special Situations for COVID-19 Vaccination of Children and Adolescents [here](#). If you have questions regarding these updates, please reach out to the [ICAAP immunizations team](#) or request support from your [regional advisor](#).

CLINICIANS, IT'S YOUR TURN

Join your peers for a discussion
on vaccine misinformation,
disinformation, and
hesitancy...where we have
been and where we go next.

Two sessions available:
March 29th @ 8am
or
March 30th @ 12PM
Registration required.



Includes live
note-taking by
Ink Factory

Scan QR code or visit
illinoisAAP.org/events



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THE END OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) (PHE) will end May 11, 2023. The termination of the emergency will impact numerous aspects of the pandemic response; this may include, but will not be limited to:

- **COVID-19 tests:** Insurance companies will no longer be required to cover the cost.
- **Data:** HHS will no longer be able to require the reporting of COVID-19 tests results.

However, COVID-19 vaccines should not be significantly impacted by the end of the PHE. Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for COVID-19 vaccines will stay in place. In addition, the end of the PHE is not tied to the commercialization of vaccines, which is expected to occur in early fall 2023. Check out our FAQ handouts for [providers](#) and [patients](#) to find more preliminary information and expectations for the commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEBINAR

Redetermination: What to Expect During the End of the Public Health Emergency – Thursday, March 16th at 12 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

VACCINATION DISCUSSION

Clinicians: It's your turn. Join a discussion on vaccine misinformation, disinformation, and hesitancy: where we have been and where we go next. Meetings on [March 29th](#) and [30th](#) will include a 30 minute presentation, group discussion, and live notetaking by [Ink Factory](#).

[Register for the 29th](#) [Register for the 30th](#)

OFFICE HOURS

I-VAC [office hours](#) are held monthly. Office hours offer an opportunity for you to ask any COVID-19 vaccine implementation questions in a casual, virtual setting. Join us for the whole hour or for as long as you need assistance!



The next session will be held **Tuesday, April 4th at 8 a.m. with Dr. Therese Lucietto.**

Registration is not required – just click [this link](#) to join.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

Learning Collaboratives with ECHO-Chicago: 3/15 & 3/29 (Adult Populations) and 3/21 (Pediatric Populations).

[Learn more and register here.](#)

BEYOND THE NEEDLE PODCAST

New episodes of the Beyond the Needle podcast will be released in 2023. Catch up on the episodes that are currently available [here!](#)

VIRTUAL BOOTCAMP

Our next virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Bootcamp will be held Thursday, April 13th from 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

[Register here.](#)



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