

I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES AGAINST COVID-19

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



I-VAC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES CORNER:

1

COMIRNATY: STORAGE AND HANDLING FOR PLASTIC VS GLASS PREFILLED SYRINGES

Comirnaty 2023 - 2024 prefilled syringes for ages 12+ are available in a glass or plastic syringe, these products have [different storage requirements](#).

Glass pre-filled syringes:

- ❌ **Cannot** be stored in ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers [-90 °C to -60 °C (-130 °F to -76 °F)] or in the freezer [-25 °C to -15 °C (-13 °F to 5 °F)].
- ✓ **Can** be stored in the refrigerator for up to 6 months starting from the date of manufacture to the expiration date.
- ✓ **Can** be left out at room temperature for no longer than 12 hours.

Plastic pre-filled syringes:

- ✓ **Can** be stored in ULT freezers for up to 9 months.
- ✓ **Can** be stored in the refrigerator for up to 10 weeks.
- ✓ **Must** be used within 4 hours of thawing (room temperature).

The [I-VAC storage and handling charts](#) are updated to reflect this information.

2

UPDATED COVID-19 FEE SCHEDULE

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has updated their [COVID-19 Vaccine Fee Schedule](#) to include 2023/2024 products. Fees listed on this document will be effective through December 31, 2023.

Updated information for Novavax, Pfizer, and Moderna vaccines are included, as well as previous codes for vaccine counseling, telehealth appointments, treatments, testing, and laboratory costs.

A proposal for COVID-19 vaccine reimbursements for 2024 is outlined [here](#). The proposed changes bring the amounts down to be in line with reimbursements for other vaccines.



3

COVID-19 VACCINE TRENDS

According to a December 1, 2023 [CDC report](#), COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccination rates among adults remain low. Vaccine uptake is slow, with less than a 1% increase in coverage between the week of November 18 and November 25 for both children and adults. Overall, only 16% of adults over the age of 18 years old have received a 2023/2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Among children, only 6.9%. The highest vaccination rates are found among adults aged 65+ with 33% having received an updated dose.

Flu vaccination rates in children are also higher when compared to COVID-19 vaccination rates, but still dismal at 38.2%. Respiratory virus season is in full swing, but it's not too late to vaccinate!

Additionally, the CDC continues to stress the importance of staying up to date with COVID-19 and flu vaccines for healthcare personnel (HCP). During the 2022-2023 respiratory virus season, flu vaccine rates reached 81% and 47% among HCP at acute care hospitals and nursing homes, respectively. COVID-19 vaccination rates only reached 17% in acute care hospitals and 23% in nursing homes. There is a great need to continue promoting vaccinations to all healthcare personnel. More information on current COVID-19 trends can be found [here](#).



WASTEWATER SWITCH

In November, the CDC changed partnerships for [wastewater surveillance data](#), switching from BioBot to Verily. For more information, visit the CDC wastewater surveillance page [here](#).



RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

HealthyChildren.org serves as a valuable resource for families looking for information on immunizations and ways to enhance their children's safety and well-being. With the onset of respiratory virus season, families and caregivers can access the latest news on [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#), strategies for safeguarding their infants, and options for RSV immunizations during pregnancy or for newborns. Additionally, families can learn about the benefits of [administering multiple vaccines](#) (such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV) simultaneously to bolster protection against respiratory illnesses this fall and winter.

Funding Available for COVID-19 Vaccinators in IL

Apply now for up to \$20,000 to support:



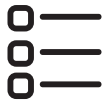
Vaccine storage and equipment



Education and addressing vaccine hesitancy



Staff travel to vaccination clinics or events

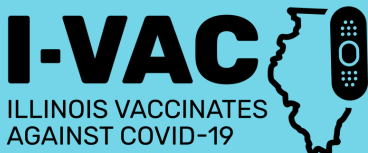


Translation services



Creation and distribution of vaccine
education and outreach materials

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code
to apply by December 15, 2023.



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

Email cwerenskjold@illinoisAAP.com with any questions

Funding for this project was made possible by the Office of Disease Control, through the
Illinois Department of Public Health.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Learning Collaboratives with ECHO Chicago

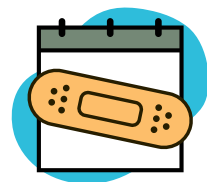
December 19, 5:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Additional I-VAC trainings, discussions, and more will be held in 2024. Keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters and on our [website](#) for a calendar of events!



OTHER NEWS TO NOTE!



2024 IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES

The CDC published the new [2024 immunization schedules](#), with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also [approving and endorsing](#) the Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules. Updating the immunization schedules ahead of the usual timeline will improve timing of insurance payments and the ability of certain health care providers to administer immunizations in some states. To read more about the specific updates made to the 2024 immunization schedules, click [here](#).

IDPH VACCINE DELIVERY HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 2024

IDPH Immunization Department will be closed on the following days:

- Monday December 25, 2023
- Monday January 1, 2024
- Monday January 15, 2024

Vaccine shipments for VFC, Adult 317, and Bridge Access Vaccine Program will be limited due to upcoming holidays. To ensure delivery in December, orders should have been submitted by Friday, December 8, 2023. No vaccine delivery will take place between December 21, 2023 and January 1, 2024. Providers are encouraged to order early to maintain 4 weeks of inventory to prevent vaccine outages.

CDPH VACCINE DELIVERY HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 2024

All vaccine orders should have been placed by Friday, December 8, 2023 to ensure they are shipped prior to the holidays. Orders will be delivered in the order they are received and shipping will resume on January 3, 2024.

