



# I-VAC

ILLINOIS VACCINATES  
AGAINST COVID-19

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



## I-VAC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

### COVID-19 CLINICAL GUIDANCE UPDATES:

Recent changes to the CDC's [interim clinical considerations](#) include:

- Clearer guidance on post-vaccination reactions for mRNA and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines.
- Updated information on pre-vaccination counseling and safety considerations.
- 2023-2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccines – (Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer-BioNTech) being added to the [V-safe safety monitoring](#) system to help with reporting of vaccine adverse events.
- An additional dose of the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine for those ages 65 years and older (see additional details on the following page).
- New information/guidelines for reporting adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) following administration of a COVID-19 vaccine. See [this link](#) for the CDC summary outlined below:
  - For licensed COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) for those 12 years and older: healthcare providers are **strongly encouraged** to make a VAERS report for any adverse events after vaccination and for any administration errors.
  - For COVID-19 vaccines still under EUA, providers are **required** to make a report for:
    - Vaccine administration errors.
    - Serious adverse events such as death, hospitalization, or life-threatening events.
    - Cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS) in children and adults.
    - Cases of myocarditis or pericarditis.





## ADDITIONAL COVID-19 DOSE FOR OLDER ADULTS

On February 28, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated their recommendations for [adults 65 years and older](#) to receive an additional dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. This recommendation acknowledges that older adults are at higher risk of severe disease and that an additional dose may help restore any waning protection from the previous dose. This dose can be given at least four months after the previous dose. According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), only about 50% of eligible adults have gotten the updated COVID-19 vaccine and it is very important that those who have not yet received the vaccine do so as soon as possible. For more information regarding the evolving guidelines, check out the [Contagious Chronicles recording](#) from NFID.

## COVID-19 ISOLATION GUIDANCE

The CDC updated its [COVID-19 isolation](#) guidance. These recommendations now apply to, and are grouped with, other respiratory viruses (flu and RSV). They state:

- People should stay home when sick with respiratory virus symptoms.
- People can return to normal activities if, for at least 24 hours, they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** symptoms are improving.
- Once people have returned to activities, there is then a 5-day cautionary period where people should mask, improve ventilation and indoor air quality, limit contact with others (especially people who are high risk), and use testing if available.

These recommendations do not apply to healthcare settings as they are intended for a general audience and community settings. The CDC offers separate, "specific guidance for healthcare settings ([COVID-19](#), [flu](#), and [general infection prevention and control](#)) and [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#) that is not currently changing". Dr. Katelyn Jetelina's newsletter covers more information about these changes and her thoughts, read it [here](#).

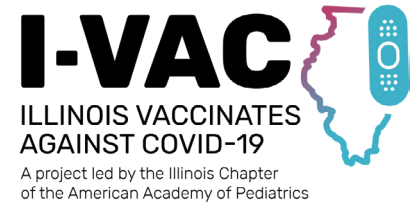
## MEET DOCTORS, PATIENTS, FACTS

### A New COVID-19 YouTube Resource to Share with Patients



As a practicing health care provider, your time with patients is limited. Enter [Doctors, Patients, Facts](#), a new YouTube channel developed in partnership with I-VAC, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), and the Family Health Foundation of Illinois, dedicated to answering commonly asked questions about COVID-19. Now you can encourage your patients to explore the new channel to get expert advice from pediatricians, physicians, medical specialists, and public health experts in short one-to-two-minute videos, so you can make the most of your appointment time!

# Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) Quality Improvement Project



In partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) is recruiting primary health care providers to join a 7-month learning collaborative and quality improvement project. The goal of this project is to build the capacity of primary care providers to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through improving communication with patients and families about vaccines, optimizing practice office systems, and understanding reasons for missed vaccinations opportunities during office visits.

**This project will have a quality improvement (QI) component.** Practices must provide primary care to patients in Illinois, complete monthly de-identified retrospective chart reviews, and complete monthly PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) cycles. Practices will engage in monthly educational sessions that cover topics including communication techniques to overcome vaccine hesitancy, motivational interviewing and the C.A.S.E. technique, and practice processes to promote efficient and reliable vaccine administration. Sessions for this project will be held on select Thursdays at 8am CST from April to September 2024.

## Benefits of participating:

- Improve knowledge of best practices for office systems and care strategies to promote vaccine administration and uptake.
- Network and problem solve with others.
- Earn American Board of Pediatrics Part 4 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit as well as continuing medical education credits.

## Who Should Apply:

Primary care practices in Illinois who:

- Want to improve the quality of care for patients around COVID-19 vaccination and reduce vaccine hesitancy.
- Are interested in improving their practice processes around COVID-19 vaccination.



**Register at [illinoisAAP.org/events](https://illinoisAAP.org/events) or scanning the QR code by April 27.**

**For more information, contact Caroline at [cwerenskjold@illinoisAAP.org](mailto:cwerenskjold@illinoisAAP.org)**

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



The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics designates each live webinar for a maximum of *1 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 webinars.





# OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES

## MEASLES

As of March 14, 2024, at least 12 cases of measles have been identified in Chicago - six in adults and six in children. Ten of the cases are related to new arrivals from a shelter in Pilsen, and two are unrelated to the new arrivals mission. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is actively working to confirm immunity or vaccinate all shelter residents; however, we can still expect to see additional cases. A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is also in the city to help support the outbreak response.

In addition to CDPH's response, all providers should ensure their patients are up to date with the [measles, mumps, rubella \(MMR\) vaccine](#). This includes one dose at 12 - 15 months of age and a second dose at 4 - 6 years of age. For those who need to catch up on the MMR vaccine schedule, the two doses should be separated by at least 4 weeks. Please continue to reach out to patients who are not up to date with their measles vaccines and proactively communicate about measles with your patients and their families, including those who have children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

There are also two important webinars on measles this week – please note that registrations are full, however, you can join both events live through [this link](#) regardless of whether or not you have already registered. Both webinars will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

- Wednesday, March 20 at 12 pm - Measles Update for Clinicians: Recognition, Reporting and Response
- Thursday, March 21 at 12 pm - Preventing, Reporting, Responding, & Managing Measles in Schools, Daycares and WIC Clinics

We will continue to post real-time updates and resources to this webpage: [Measles Updates](#).

Other helpful links:

- [CDPH Measles Isolation & Testing Recommendations](#)
- [Have You Ever Diagnosed Measles?](#) - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- [Measles one-pager from Project Firstline \(AAP\)](#)
- [CDPH Measles Dashboard](#)
- Watch for measles cases, urge families to get children vaccinated, [AAP News Article](#)



## ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION ACTION WEEK

Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW) is April 1–5. This is a week dedicated to ensuring adolescents are up to date on their immunizations. Keeping up with the recommended pediatric vaccine schedule will help keep teens protected before they encounter serious and life-threatening diseases. Visit the [AIAW website](#) for downloadable social media posts providers can use to help spread awareness! You can also find additional information and resources from the [CDC](#) and [ICAAP's immunizations page](#).