Updates and Alerts

Immunization Schedule Updated for 2021

The annual immunization schedule update was released in February. Changes pertinent to pediatrics this year include:

- **MenACWY-TT (MenQuadfi)** was added to the MenACWY vaccines.
- **DTaP-IPV-Hib-hepB (Vaxelis)** was added to the list of combination vaccines.
- **Influenza**
  - Regarding use of influenza vaccines in people with egg allergy who have symptoms other than hives (such as angioedema, respiratory distress, etc), influenza vaccines other than Flublok or Flucelvax should be administered in a medical setting under supervision of a health care provider who can recognize and manage severe allergic reactions.
  - New language was added that quadrivalent live-attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) should not be used if a patient received the influenza antiviral medications oseltamivir or zanamivir within the previous 48 hours, peramivir within the previous five days or baloxavir within the previous 17 days.
  - “Children younger than 2 years” was added to the situations where LAIV4 should not be used.
- **MenACWY**
  - Language was added to the “special situations” section, which contains information about use of Menveo in infants who received dose 1 at age 3-6 months.
- **MenB**
  - Language was added regarding booster doses and outbreak settings.
  - Regarding booster doses, people ages 10 years and older with complement deficiency, complement inhibitor use, asplenia or who are microbiologists should receive a MenB booster dose one year after completion of a MenB primary series followed by MenB booster doses every two to three years thereafter, for as long as increased risk remains.
  - In outbreak settings, people 10 years of age and older whom public health officials have determined to be at increased risk during an outbreak should receive a one-time booster dose if it has been one year or more since completion of a MenB primary series.
- **Tdap**
  - The schedule now allows either Td vaccine or Tdap be used for the decennial Td booster, tetanus prophylaxis for wound care management and for additional required doses in the catch-up schedule, even if a person had previously received a Tdap dose. Table 1 (Birth through 18 years)
  - Arrows have been added to the hepatitis B row at the second dose to reflect that it may be given between 1 and 2 months of age.
- **Table 2** (Catch-up, 4 months through 18 years)
  - MenACWY-TT was added to the meningococcal ACWY row.
- **Table 3** (Child and adolescent vaccine schedule based on medical conditions)
  - The primary changes to Table 3 are related to pregnancy to reflect that measles-mumps-rubella, varicella and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines should be administered after delivery.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine**
  - A box was added in the notes section regarding COVID-19 vaccination. It states “ACIP recommends use of COVID-19 vaccines within the scope of the Emergency Use Authorization or Biologics License Application for the particular vaccine. Interim ACIP recommendations for use of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs.”

For more information about schedule changes, view the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Schedule Changes & Guidance.
Updates and Alerts (Continued)

- **AAP announces no changes to influenza policy for 21-22 season**

  The AAP will not change its influenza recommendations for the upcoming, 2021-2022 influenza season. This announcement informs pediatric practices as they prepare for the influenza season by prebooking vaccine orders. The full policy will be published in *Pediatrics* this fall. Main policy points that remain consistent include:
  - Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all children 6 months of age and older.
  - Any licensed influenza vaccine appropriate by age and health status can be used for influenza vaccination in children and youths.
  - There is no preference for any influenza vaccine product for children with no contraindications to influenza vaccination and for whom more than one licensed, age-appropriate product is available.

  The AAP is working on guidance to help practices implement annual influenza vaccination given anticipated authorization of COVID-19 vaccines in adolescents and children.

**Resources**

- AAP News – [Flu Guidance the Same as Last Season: AAP](#) (login required)
- AAP.org – [Influenza Implementation Guidance](#)

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- **National Infant Immunization Week**
  April 24 – May 1, 2021
  See Page 5 for more information.

- **CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Meeting (ACIP)**
  May 5, 2021
  Held Virtually
  The ACIP generally holds regular meetings each year at the CDC to review scientific data and vote on vaccine recommendations. Meetings are available online via live webcast. More information on ACIP meetings is available [here](#). The agenda for this meeting will focus on rabies and dengue vaccines.

**Resources**

- **AAP COVID-19 Vaccine for Children**
  The AAP offers a [COVID-19 Vaccine for Children page](#), which is frequently updated to provide you with information about COVID-19 vaccine. The page links to the following:
  - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation in Pediatric Practices](#)
  - [What Pediatricians Can Do Now](#)
  - [Getting Paid](#)

- **IAC revises Ask the Experts: COVID-19 web page**
  The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) recently updated its Ask the Experts: COVID-19 web page regarding the latest CDC clinical considerations for each COVID-19 vaccine, including the addition of information about Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The Ask the Experts: COVID-19 web page will grow as more information becomes available and new vaccines are authorized.

**Red Book Online**

**New RBO Vaccine Status Table**

A new table—SARS-CoV-2 vaccines—was added to the **Red Book Online (RBO)** Vaccine Status Table page. This new table provides current information about five SARS-CoV-2 vaccines (3 currently authorized and 2 pending authorization) and pertinent information about each, including:

- Manufacturer
- Vaccine type
- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) status
- FDA age indication
- Dose number and interval
- Presentation
- Comments and links to further information

Visit the [RBO Vaccine Status Table](#) for the latest information about recently submitted, licensed, and recommended vaccines and biologics, including status of the FDA licensure process and related AAP and CDC recommendations.
Featured Research Findings

**CDC study: COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring data ‘reassuring’**

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[https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/02/19/mmwr-02-19-21](https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/02/19/mmwr-02-19-21) (Login Required)

Trisha Korioth, Staff Writer


Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed data on adverse events related to the first and second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the first dose of the Moderna vaccine that were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and v-safe. VAERS is the CDC’s passive surveillance system, and v-safe is a new voluntary active safety monitoring system established by the CDC for the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Between Dec. 14 and Jan. 13, 13,794,904 vaccine doses were administered. Local and systemic reactions were common. Reports of anaphylaxis for both vaccines --- 4.5 cases per 1 million --- were comparable to those reported after receipt of other vaccines.

VAERS received and processed 6,844 reports of adverse events in non-LTCF residents. Symptoms reported by the 6,326 (92.4%) individuals with nonserious adverse events included headache, dizziness and fatigue.

Of the 518 (7.6%) classified as serious, there were 35 deaths (age range: 25 to 91 years); 15 (42.9%) were women. Median interval from vaccination to death was three days. Review of information about 16 deaths indicated underlying heart disease, cancer, stroke, probable pulmonary embolism and otherwise frail health as the cause. Investigation is ongoing for the other 19 deaths.

The v-safe system enrolled 1,602,065 vaccine recipients (median age 46; range 16 to 110 years) who completed at least one smartphone-based web survey. Injection site pain, fatigue, headache, myalgia and chills were the most frequently reported local and systemic reactions for first doses of either vaccine. Reactions were more frequently reported the day after vaccination, and reactions were more frequently reported after the second Pfizer dose than the first.

There were 1,106,656 women enrolled in v-safe; 10,825 (0.68%) of female enrollees reported that they were pregnant at the time of vaccination. “V-safe will be able to provide information on vaccination during pregnancy through follow-up in the v-safe pregnancy registry,” authors wrote.

At a COVID-19 Response Team briefing today, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., said she anticipates additional reports by CDC researchers on COVID-19 safety monitoring data, adding that the vaccine safety monitoring system in place is the most comprehensive in U.S. history.

“We will continue to closely monitor these events and report back as part of the data emerge,” she said. “I will reiterate the CDC is committed to monitoring vaccine safety and frequently reporting on what we know.”

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New Vaccine Social Media Infographics – Now Available!

The Childhood Immunization Support Program has developed new vaccination infographics for social media! Ten new infographics are available on the AAP Immunization Campaigns and Toolkits page. The infographics are based on three values, purity, liberty, and protection. Please consider sharing these infographics through your social media accounts to encourage on-time vaccination and protection of children.

Below is a sample of the images, but be sure to visit the website to download the files specific to your social media platform.

AAP Childhood Immunization Flipchart—Get it for your practice!
The AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program has developed a Childhood Immunization Flipchart. The flipchart is designed for use by pediatricians and other primary care providers during clinical encounters with patients and families to aid them in conducting efficient, productive conversations about childhood vaccination and giving a strong recommendation for childhood vaccines. It focuses on vaccines routinely provided to children from birth through age 6 years and contains family-friendly infographics and detailed speaking points that providers can use, for each of the 10 vaccines recommended in childhood.

If you would like to request copies of this flipchart to use with patients/families, please do so here. We are currently mailing copies. The flipchart user guide will include suggestions for limiting germ spread while using the flipchart during the COVID-19 pandemic.
National Infant Immunization Week April 24-May 1, 2021

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is a yearly observance highlighting the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). This year, in particular, it’s critical to ensure that families stay on track for children’s routine checkups and recommended vaccinations.

AAP
The AAP is excited to announce the launch a new PSA as part of our Call Your Pediatrician campaign, which urges parents to get caught up on all their child’s immunizations as soon as possible. This new video features a parent taking their child to the pediatrician to be vaccinated, and then turning into an animated superhero. This is a superhero moment!

The new PSAs are available in English and Spanish. In addition to our digital/social media outreach, we are distributing these nationally to TV outlets, along with radio PSAs in English and Spanish.

Please consider sharing this empowering message with parents or partners in your network. These videos and all the other materials from our Call Your Pediatrician campaign are available in this toolkit, where members can also download graphics for social media, videos, and sample social media posts. Our hashtag is #CallYourPediatrician.

CDC
The CDC offers many helpful resources to help you promote vaccination during this week.

Tools for Health Care Professionals
All staff in healthcare practices, including non-clinical staff, play important roles during NIIW. To highlight childhood immunizations this NIIW:

- Build a culture of immunization in your organization: 10 Ways to Create a Culture of Immunization Within Our Pediatric Practice
- Learn simple tips for talking with parents about childhood vaccines
- Use #ivax2protect on your social media posts to share why you support infant immunizations

Promotional Materials

- NIIW digital media toolkit
- NIIW key messages
- NIIW logos in English and Spanish