Updates and Alerts

- **2020 Immunization Schedules are now available!**
  View the [schedules](#), recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

- **AAP Louisiana Chapter releases data about state residents’ attitudes on vaccines**
  The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (LAAAP) has released results from a survey commissioned to assess attitudes of Louisiana residents about vaccines. Highlights included
  - 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that vaccines are important to protect infants and children from seriously and life-threatening diseases.
  - 92% of respondents agreed that it was important that all children be vaccinated in order to protect other children around them who cannot be vaccinated due to a medical condition.
  View the [full poll results](#) or the complete press release, *Louisiana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics Polls State Residents’ Attitudes on Vaccines*.

- **Newsletter Feedback**
  The AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program would like your feedback on this quarterly Newsletter. Please consider taking 5 minutes to tell us what you like and what you would improve. Access our brief survey at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J5LMWZS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J5LMWZS).

- **Study explores strategies of anti-vaccine advertisement on Facebook**
  The [World Health Organization](#) identifies vaccine hesitancy, influenced by sources including social media, as a global health threat. A recent [study](#) (login may be required) done by the University of Maryland, John Hopkins University, and George Washington University examined Facebook's Ad Library for vaccine-related advertisements posted from March 31, 2017 to February 22, 2019 on Facebook ($n=309$). The study identified two major anti-vaccination groups as ad-buyers for Facebook: World Mercury Project and Stop Mandatory Vaccination. Although there were more pro-vaccination ad buyers for Facebook, their advertisements promoting vaccinations were more likely to be removed from Facebook due to not providing their funding sources. Themes in anti-vaccine ads included vaccine harm, choice to vaccinate or not, and vaccine fraud. Such anti-vaccine ads targeted women and young adults who most likely had small children, while pro-vaccine advertisement reached a wide age range but concentrated in small geographical areas. Although Facebook's new policies aim to prevent the dissemination of misinformation, they may be insufficient in combating this issue.

- **Few US youths receive MMR vaccination before traveling internationally**
  A recent study in *JAMA Pediatrics* reports that only 41.3% of children ages 6 months to 18 years received the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before traveling overseas. Researchers reported that of those children who did not receive MMR before travel, about 40% of their parents or guardians refused the vaccine, and about the same percentage were not offered it by their provider. Authors concluded that providers should consider the vaccine for any children eligible, given the increased risk international travelers face. [Click here](#) to read the full article (login may be required).
Events

- **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**  
  February 26-27, 2020  
  Atlanta, GA  
  The ACIP holds three meetings each year at the CDC to review scientific data and vote on vaccine recommendations. Meetings are open to the public and available online via live webcast. More information on ACIP meetings is available [here](#).

- **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases 2020 Annual Conference on Vaccinology Research (ACVR)**  
  March 23-25, 2020  
  Washington, DC  
  ACVR is a well-established forum for the exchange of the latest scientific and clinical knowledge in vaccinology. ACVR brings together more than 300 researchers from across the globe – including healthcare professionals, trainees, young investigators, government officials, and industry and academia representatives from the many disciplines involved in vaccinology.

- **National Immunization Conference (NIC)**  
  May 19-21, 2020  
  Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel  
  Atlanta, GA  
  The NIC brings together a wide variety of local, state, federal, and private-sector immunization partners to explore science, policy, education, and planning issues related to immunization in general and vaccine-preventable disease.

Resources

- **“Vaccines Save Lives” black enamel pins from the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)**  
  IAC’s newly designed “Vaccines Save Lives” pin on hard black enamel with gold lettering and edges are now available!

- **Resigned Web site for the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)**  
  The NFID has redesigned its website, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org). The site now brings together information and resources from its blog and previously separate NFID websites. The redesigned navigation gives access to NFID’s toolkits, events, trainings, and reports. The website’s search capabilities have also been improved, and it is now optimized for mobile devices.

Red Book Online

The Red Book Represents Official AAP Policy.

It is published every 3 years, but the AAP continually updates its policy to reflect updated information.

Outbreaks Section

Find the latest information on infectious disease outbreaks with the Red Book Online Outbreaks section for members and subscribers. Overseen by members of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, the Outbreaks section is intended to provide pediatric health care professionals with a quick resource to get up to speed on current outbreaks and how they affect children, along with links to explore further.

The section mainly covers outbreaks of infections that have been identified in multiple US states and that affect the pediatric population. Other outbreak types may be covered occasionally as situations warrant.

Bookmark the Outbreak section at [https://redbook.solutions.aap.org/ss/outbreaks.aspx](https://redbook.solutions.aap.org/ss/outbreaks.aspx) and keep an eye out for emails from Red Book Online alerting you to updates.

Share with CISP!

**Success Stories:** Have you implemented a system in your practice to improve efficiency or increase immunization rates? The Childhood Immunization Support Program would love to hear about and share your success story!

Visit [Share Your Success](#) for directions on how to share your story.

**Topics:** Got an idea about a topic you would like to see covered in the AAP Immunization Initiatives Newsletter?

Contact us at: immunize@aap.org
**FEATURED RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Provider experience recommending HPV vaccination before age 11 years

DL Biancarelli, M Drainoni, and RB Perkins

The current Immunization Schedule, as set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, recommends routine HPV vaccination at ages 11-12. Despite this recommendation, coverage rates for HPV vaccination continue to be low. Research has shown, however, that younger patients (age 9-10) are more likely to complete the HPV vaccine series. Biancarelli, Drainoni, and Perkins conducted a qualitative study, published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*, on providers’ experiences in lowering the age of initiation for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination.

**METHODS**

Family medicine and pediatric practices from five community health centers in Boston participated in the trial of Development of Systems and Education for HPV vaccination (DOSE-HPV), a 7-session intervention aimed to improve HPV vaccination coverage. Topics addressed included data on individual provider and clinic-wide vaccination coverage, motivation interviewing skills, HPV vaccine and HPV-associated diseases, and action plans developed by the practices. All five sites lowered the age for recommending HPV vaccinations—two lowered to 10 years and three lowered to 9 years.

Primary care providers, registered nurses, and clinical leaders who attended ≥ 3 sessions of the intervention participated in qualitative interviews conducted one month after the final session (n=26). Participants were specifically asked about their overall experience of lowering the age at which they routinely recommend HPV vaccine. Interviews continued until authors reached thematic saturation. Transcripts were transcribed and coded to compose a codebook, a collection of themes found in the interviews along with their definitions and examples. The codebook was then applied to the transcripts to resolve any inconsistencies.

**RESULTS**

Several themes related to recommending HPV vaccination earlier were identified. While skepticism was initially expressed among providers, there was high parent and child acceptance of HPV vaccination when recommended at ages 9 and 10 years, and series initiation before age 11 years increased opportunities to vaccinate. Some providers felt hesitant about lowering the age because they believed parents would reject the vaccine at an earlier age in comparison to 11 to 12 years of age due to perceived beliefs. However, participants had positive outcomes when offering the vaccine at a younger age. Some found that recommending vaccination before puberty helped disassociate it from sex. In addition, providers found offering vaccination at a younger age to be a sustainable solution in creating more vaccination opportunities. It's difficult to track older adolescents as their appointments become less frequent and inconsistent. However, younger patients are more likely to come for routine checkups and examinations.

**DISCUSSION**

Limitations in the qualitative study include small sample size with 5 clinical practices and limited geographic sampling as the study took place in Boston, MA. Replicating the study with more diverse geographic locations and a larger sample would determine generalizability. Overall, this study supported early initiation of HPV vaccination as a potential and effective change in family medicine and pediatric practices. Future research should observe the long-term, population-level impacts of early initiation, as well as whether consistent, early provider recommendations decreases parental concerns and the time spent discussing HPV, and whether it increases vaccine initiation.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2019.10.025 (login may be required)
When it comes to HPV cancers, cervical cancer is just the tip of the iceberg

Every year in the United States, 34,800 women and men are estimated to be diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection. Although cervical cancer is the most well-known of the cancers caused by HPV, it is just the tip of the iceberg—there are five other types of HPV cancers, including penile cancer, anal cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, and oropharyngeal cancer. There are no recommended screening tests for these other five cancers, so they may not be detected until they cause serious health problems. By then, treatment options may be limited and may require procedures that are more invasive.

Getting preteens vaccinated could prevent over 90% of these cancers. Although CDC recommends two doses of HPV vaccine for all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years, a recent CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report showed that only 51% of adolescents aged 13-17 years were up to date with the HPV vaccine series.

Parents consider you to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to their child’s vaccines. This is true even for parents who have questions or concerns about vaccines or who have considered delaying one or more vaccines. You have a critical role in helping parents understand the important role vaccines, including the HPV vaccine, play in protecting their children now and in the future. Listen to and respond to parents’ questions, assume parents will vaccine, and recommend HPV vaccination in the same way and on the same day you recommend other vaccines for adolescents.

New data reinforces the safety of HPV vaccination.

With more than 120 million doses of HPV vaccines distributed in the United States, there are robust data showing that HPV vaccines are safe. CDC recently published two large safety reviews of 9-valent HPV vaccine (9vHPV) in Pediatrics. The first study examined over 7,000 reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following 9vHPV vaccination. The second study used CDC’s Vaccine Safety Datalink system to study 839,000 doses of 9vHPV administered to individuals ages 9-26 years. Collectively, these two studies represent the largest, most comprehensive post-licensure safety data on 9vHPV. Both studies support 9vHPV’s favorable safety profile that was observed in pre-licensure clinical trials and found it to be similar to that of its predecessor, the quadrivalent HPV vaccine (4vHPV). The studies did not identify any unexpected safety problems and add to the body of scientific evidence that overwhelmingly supports the safety of HPV vaccine.

What can you do in your practice this month?

In honor of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, use these strategies and resources to help increase HPV vaccination rates in your practice:

- Display CDC’s [iceberg infographic](#) in your practice to help educate parents and your staff about the cancers that HPV causes and why on-time vaccination is so important.
- Explore materials on CDC’s updated [HPV website for healthcare professionals](#)—including a new webpage outlining key data on [HPV vaccine safety and effectiveness](#).
- Discover new ways to make a strong vaccine recommendation, answer patient questions, or get your staff on board with vaccination. The #HowIRecommend video series features short, informative videos on childhood and adolescent vaccination.
- Increase HPV vaccination rates in your practice using these [5 practical and proven strategies](#), including bundling your recommendation, ensuring a consistent message, and providing personal examples.
- Share CDC’s [new CE program about how to foster support for immunization](#) with nurses and medical assistants in your practice. All practice staff, including non-clinical staff, have a key role to play in improving vaccine acceptance.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp).
Updates to the Immunization Social Media Toolkit
The AAP has expanded the Immunization Social Media Toolkit to include new sections, to help pediatricians become or stay engaged on social media and to better manage troubling posts and comments.

The Increasing Engagement section will allow you to learn more about using hashtags, find immunization-positive handles to follow, and get platform-specific guidance on how to polish your purpose, voice, and tone on social media.

Visit Assessing and Managing Comments for steps that will help you assess your commenters intentions, determine the best course of action and how to manage unproductive comments on specific social media platforms.

Childhood Immunization Flipchart Pilot Recruitment
Would you like to conduct efficient, productive conversations with families about childhood vaccination and give a strong recommendation for childhood vaccines? The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Childhood Immunization Support Program, a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developed a childhood immunization flipchart containing information on vaccines routinely provided to children from birth through age 6 years for use by pediatricians and other primary care providers during clinical encounters with patients and families to aid them in vaccine conversations. The flipchart contains family-friendly infographics and detailed speaking points that providers can use, for each of the 10 vaccines recommended in childhood.

This flipchart was modeled after the Guide to Adolescent Immunizations: Flip Chart for Pediatric Offices and Parents (Adolescent Immunization Flipchart), a highly sought-after tool by primary care providers and others who vaccinate.

The AAP seeks up to 20 pediatric providers in a pediatric practice interested in participating in an 8-week virtual learning collaborative and piloting use of the childhood immunization flipchart during clinical encounters with patients and families, from March/April through May/June, 2020 (depending on when we start). The collaborative will include regular conference calls/webinars and a Listserv coordinated by the AAP to facilitate collaboration and sharing among participants. Participants in the collaborative are expected to:

- Assign a Project Lead (this should be a provider who discusses vaccine recommendations with parents regularly). The lead will be responsible for communicating with AAP staff, sharing with AAP and other pilot participants, and completing evaluations (see below).
- Use the flipchart to discuss vaccines with families during most (more than half of) conversations about routine childhood vaccines.
- Discuss challenges, successes and tips associated with the use of the childhood immunization flipchart with other pilot participants via calls and other virtual technology.
  - Participants are expected to actively engage at least 6 out of the 8 weeks of the collaborative and can do so by participating and sharing during conference calls and/or posting to/responding to messages on the collaborative Listserv.
- Complete an evaluation survey of the flipchart and the experience of using it in practice (eg, how the tool was received by families, how the tool could be improved, and more).
- Invite/ask families with whom you used the flipchart to complete an AAP-developed questionnaire to provide feedback on the flipchart.

In return, participants will receive:
- First access to the yet to be released childhood immunization flipchart
  - Including additional copies for your practice
- Supportive learning environment in which to discuss experiences with vaccine conversations with patients and families with the AAP and other pilot participants.

If interested in the learning collaborative, please complete this brief questionnaire. Contact Katie Milewski at kmilewski@aap.org with any questions. Please note we are looking for no more than 20 practices. It is possible not all applicants will be included, as space is limited.
The American Academy of Pediatrics would like to congratulate the many pediatricians and pediatric organizations selected as the HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention 2019 Champion Award Winners. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of American Cancer Institutes, and the American Cancer Society have partnered to create this award program to recognize clinicians, clinics, practices, groups, and health systems that go above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their community. Every year, the program honors up to one Champion from all 50 US states, eight U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia. This year, the program is honoring champions from 25 states.

Of these 25 awardees, 17 are pediatricians and pediatric organizations. Congratulations go to:

**ARKANSAS**
Laura Williams, MD, FAAP
Little Rock, AR

**CALIFORNIA**
Raymond Perry, MD, FAAP
Los Angeles, CA

**GEORGIA**
Cobb Pediatric Associates
Smyrna, GA

**HAWAII**
Aiea Pediatrics
Aiea, HI

**IOWA**
Nathan Boonstra, MD, FAAP
Des Moines, IA

**LOUISIANA**
Sunnyside Pediatrics
Metairie, LA

**MAINE**
Maine Medical Partners—Westbrook Pediatrics
Westbrook, ME

**MASSACHUSETTS**
Thomas J. Schuch, MD, MPH, FAAP
South Boston, MA

**MICHIGAN**
Ascension Borgess Family Medicine and Pediatrics
Plainwell, MI

**MINNESOTA**
Andrea Singh, MD, FAAP
St. Louis Park, MN

**MISSISSIPPI**
Vibha Vig, MD, FAAP
Canton, MS

**NEVADA**
Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health
Reno, NV

**NEW JERSEY**
Bellevue Pediatrics
Ewing, NJ

**OKLAHOMA**
Southwestern Pediatrics
Lawton, OK

**TENNESSEE**
Sewanee Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
Sewanee, TN

**UTAH**
Southridge Pediatrics
Riverton, UT

**VIRGINIA**
Elizabeth Watts, MD
Oakton, VA

These pediatric HPV Champions are an inspiration to everyone who is committed to improving the health of children across the US. We are pleased and honored to congratulate them on this well-deserved award.

To read profiles of the awardees on the CDC’s website, and to learn more about HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award program, please visit [https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/winner-spotlights.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/winner-spotlights.html)