



# HoosierVax Health: Vaccine Insights for Clinicians

September 2024

## Spotlight

### VFC Immunizations Coverage and Data Quality Tool

We are excited to announce that we will be sending out the latest Vaccines for Children Immunization Coverage and Data Quality Report this month. This year's report introduces improved quality metrics, providing a clearer and more accurate view of a provider's vaccination coverage rates. This enhancement will assist providers in effectively refining their data reporting practices and working to ensure high vaccine coverage rates.

In addition to improved metrics, the report will allow for the comparison of vaccination coverage and data quality, including county and state averages. This comparative analysis is essential for tracking progress and establishing benchmarks for practices. The report is also a powerful tool for establishing objective performance standards and tracking performance measures. These are valuable tools that can assist with a practice's strategic planning goals and help identify areas in vaccination administration and data reporting that have need of improvement. By addressing these areas, overall patient care can be enhanced to ensure health for all Hoosiers.

Look out for this report in **September!** If you have any questions please email [IDOHFluvax@health.in.gov](mailto:IDOHFluvax@health.in.gov).



## Act Now: Important Vaccine Updates

### Encourage RSV, Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations

As we approach the upcoming respiratory season, it's critical to take proactive steps to ensure our communities are protected against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza (flu), and COVID-19. Your role as a trusted healthcare provider is crucial in safeguarding public health, and we rely on your leadership to drive vaccination efforts forward.

We urge you to begin reaching out to your patients immediately, encouraging them to schedule their vaccinations. Early and consistent communication is key. Implement reminder recall systems now to prompt patients to confirm their vaccination appointments. To enhance vaccination rates this season, consider reaching out through calls, emails, or texts to encourage your patients to get vaccinated. Many patients are still undecided about vaccinations, and your strong recommendation can make all the difference. Research consistently shows that a provider's endorsement is one of the most powerful influences on a patient's decision to get vaccinated.

This respiratory season, the combined threat of RSV, flu, and COVID-19 presents a significant challenge. High vaccination rates are our best defense against widespread outbreaks, severe illness, and strain on our healthcare system. By acting now, we can prevent hospitalizations and save lives. Remember, your recommendation is the most influential factor in a patient's decision to get vaccinated. Be bold, be clear, and be persistent. Together, we can achieve a successful respiratory season and protect our communities from the dangers of these vaccine-preventable diseases.

### Bexero

While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a revised dosing schedule for the Meningococcal Group B vaccine (BEXSERO), it is important to note that, as always, IDOH will adhere to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Until such time as the ACIP endorses a similar adjustment to the dosing schedule, we continue to advise providers to follow the existing ACIP recommendations, which prescribe the administration of the vaccine in two doses, with the second dose given at least one month after the first.

**ACIP Dosing Recommendation:** The vaccine is administered in two doses, with the second dose given at least one month after the first. Each dose is 0.5 mL and is given intramuscularly.

### FDA Approves Updated COVID-19 Vaccines for 2024-2025

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently approved and authorized for emergency use updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, designed to target the currently circulating variants. These updated vaccines, formulated for the **2024-2025** season, aim to provide better protection against serious outcomes, including hospitalization and death.

The newly authorized vaccines include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (2024–2025 Formula): Approved for individuals aged 6 months and older.
- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2024–2025 Formula): Approved for individuals aged 6 months and older. Please note that the 2023–2024 Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available in the United States as all doses have expired, and CDC recommendations for its use have been removed. Updated recommendations will be provided if the FDA authorizes additional COVID-19 vaccines for 2024-2025.



### Discontinue Use of 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

With the FDA's recent actions, the **2023-2024** Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are **no longer authorized** for use in the United States. Providers are advised to take the following steps to prevent administration errors:

1. Remove all 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from storage immediately, even if they have not expired.
2. Update your inventory in CHIRP by deleting these vaccines from your available stock.
3. Return all unused 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to the CDC's centralized distributor through the standard process for returning spoiled or expired vaccines.

Please ensure these steps are completed promptly to comply with the latest FDA guidelines.

## Enhanced MyVaxIndiana Updates

To solve the problem of Hoosiers needing to rely on their healthcare provider to obtain their Patient Identity Number (PIN) for accessing their or their dependent's immunization records, effort was undertaken by IDOH to enhance the interface and functionality of the MyVaxIndiana portal. The updated portal has an improved UI and flow for ease of use by Hoosiers.

Hoosiers will now be able to access their immunization records for themselves or their dependents by validating a six-digit authorization code sent to their registered cellphone or email. If they have not registered their cellphone or email, the MyVaxIndiana portal provides the capability to send their information along with a valid driver's license or Authorization Form. Once their information has been registered, they will be able to easily access the immunization records.

There are plans to update the MyVaxIndiana iPhone app with these functionalities in the future in an effort to increase patient accessibility even more.

## Upcoming Events

### CHIRP User Group Meetings

The Indiana Department of Health will be conducting Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) user group meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for users to learn about CHIRP, hear programmatic updates, learn about new tools and resources and address concerns related to the registry.

All times listed below are local times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [ChirpITHelp@health.in.gov](mailto:ChirpITHelp@health.in.gov). Previous UGM recordings can be found [here](#).

- Oct. 21, 11 a.m. - Noon EST - virtual web training, <https://isdh.pividal.tv/Live-Events-With-Chat>
- Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT, at Hendricks County Health Department, 355 S Washington St G, Danville
- Dec. 18, 11 a.m. - Noon EDT - virtual web training, <https://isdh.pividal.tv/Live-Events-With-Chat>

### VFC Ordering

- Flu Busters 2, Phase 1: Aug. 5 - Sept. 30, 2024
- Flu Busters 2, Phase 2: Oct. 1 - Dec. 6, 2024
- Flu Busters 2, Phase 3: Jan. 2 - Jun. 30, 2025

### Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) Meetings

- **HPV Summit**  
Sept. 26, 8:30 a.m. — 12 p.m., at Raclin Hall Auditorium on IU School of Medicine campus, 1234 Notre Dame Ave, South Bend, IN 46617

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers

