

## Help get kids back on track!

The 2020-21 school immunization data showed a troubling drop in the percentage of students fully vaccinated with the vaccines required for school entry. The seventh-grade coverage levels for Tdap and meningococcal dropped by 8 percentage points and 7 percentage points, respectively.

Coverage levels for kindergarten students also dropped three percentage points for MMR, Varicella, DTaP, and Polio, when comparing the 2019-20 kindergarten cohort to the 2020-21 cohort. School vaccination requirements are still in place to help ensure kids are safe and healthy in school. Consider sending reminders, or calling families into the clinic, earlier this year to avoid a rush later this summer.

## Vaccinate adolescents for COVID-19

Summertime offers a chance to get kids in for their camp or sports physicals, catch them up on overdue vaccines, and provide vaccines that are due. Be sure to include COVID-19 vaccination as part of the vaccines you recommend for adolescents ages 12 years and older. The Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is currently available for this age. You can administer COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines; previous guidance regarding the inability to co-administer COVID-19 vaccination with other vaccines has been removed. For more information on COVID-19 vaccination for this age group, including tips and information to share with parents, please review Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/peds.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/peds.html)). If your adolescent patients are in for their COVID-19 vaccines, do not forget to assess for all recommended immunizations.

If you are not already a COVID-19 vaccine provider, register now. Go to COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Registration ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxreg.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxreg.html)) for detailed instructions.

## COVID-19 vaccine site visits

In compliance with our federal grant providing COVID-19 vaccine, we are beginning to conduct COVID-19 vaccine site visits. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will be doing site visits for all providers getting vaccine through the state. Site visits are underway for sites with high vaccination rates and providers who only store vaccine. Other sites will be visited over the next two years of the grant.

Watch for an email with more information including what to prepare for the site visit. It will be sent directly to vaccine coordinators and medical directors of enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers.

COVID-19 vaccine site visits are very similar to MnVFC site visits. In some cases both visits may be done together, depending on the situation.

## MIIC single vaccine assessment report for COVID-19

The single vaccine assessment report for COVID-19 is now available in the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC). Providers can now use the single vaccine assessment report to assess how well their patient population is vaccinated with COVID-19

vaccine. This report can help with initiating reminder/recall efforts for your eligible patients who have not yet received COVID-19 vaccine or for those that need to complete a second dose. The report can also serve as the basis for continuous quality improvement efforts to raise COVID-19 coverage rates within your patient population. MIIC users can do this for a list of clients or for every client associated with their organization. Please review the user guidance at Immunization Assessment ([www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html)) at the bottom of the page for more details and information on how to run a report in MIIC. Stay tuned for future webinar opportunities on the use of this feature.

## VAXELIS vaccine for MnVFC

VAXELIS is a new hexavalent pediatric vaccine containing the following vaccines: diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and pertussis (DTaP); inactivated poliovirus (IPV); Haemophilus influenza b (Hib); and hepatitis B (hepB). It is administered in a three-dose series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. VAXELIS vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-HepB) is available to order through the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) Program.

Please make every effort to minimize vaccine wastage as you consider transitioning pediatric patients to VAXELIS.

More information is available at FDA: VAXELIS ([www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaxelis](http://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaxelis)).

## ACIP update on myocarditis and pericarditis

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on June 23, 2021, to receive data and discuss risks and benefits regarding reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Myocarditis is the inflammation of the heart muscle and pericarditis is the inflammation of the lining outside the heart. In both cases, the body's immune system is causing inflammation in response to an infection or some other trigger. While myocarditis can be serious, most of these cases have occurred in males ages 16-30 and have been mild and self-limited. Symptoms can include abnormal heart rhythms, shortness of breath, or chest pain.

It was determined that there is a rare risk for this condition, particularly among males under age 30 years, however the benefit of vaccination far outweighs the rare risk. Providers should ensure that patients are aware of this rare risk and understand when to seek medical care.

Health care providers should consider myocarditis in an evaluation of chest pain after vaccination and report all cases to VAERS. To submit an event, go to VAERS: Report an Adverse Event ([vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html](http://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html)).

CDC will be updating the interim clinical considerations and the emergency use authorization (EUA) fact sheets for health care providers and recipients following the ACIP recommendations, continue to watch for updates.