

Monthly Immunization Update

March 2023

Dear Providers,

This newsletter is meant to keep you updated on issues related to vaccines quickly and easily and maintain our connection with all of you. We welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Thank you!



Vaccine Referrals to Pregnant Women

Stocking and administering vaccines in your office may not be feasible for all prenatal healthcare professionals, often due to issues with reimbursement. By making a strong vaccine referral, you can help ensure that your pregnant patients receive the recommended influenza (flu) and tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines even if you are unable to administer them in your office. The goal is to strengthen vaccine referrals to increase the likelihood of patient follow through. Making the referral:

1. Begin each referral with a vaccine recommendation that includes information on why the vaccine is beneficial and safe for mother and baby.
2. Provide information on where patients can get the vaccine/s you recommend.
3. Anticipate questions on why patients cannot get vaccinated in your office.
4. Always write a patient-specific prescription.

For the CDC handout on this information please see [Making a Strong Vaccine Referral to Pregnant Women](#).

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Barriers to Equity in Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination

Some children are at a greater risk for COVID-19 and may face additional barriers in getting vaccinated. Some of these barriers include being unable to visit a pediatrician, such as children who are experiencing homelessness or those who live in rural areas. Children or parents who face communication barriers. Children who have historical disadvantages when it comes to health such as those in racial and ethnic minority groups or have cultural or

access barriers. Those with developmental disabilities — such as cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, or an intellectual disability. CDC has a great website that goes over [Lessons Learned about Vaccination Barriers from Schools and Families](#). To see more information on barriers to equity to childhood vaccinations click [here](#).



Moderna Adolescent/ Adult and Moderna Pediatric Monovalent Products Sunsetting



As of March 13, providers must order from the following alternative vaccines for individuals seeking monovalent, primary series vaccines.

- Pfizer Monovalent Adolescent/Adult (12+ years, gray cap),
- Pfizer Monovalent Pediatric (5 years - 11 years, orange cap),
- Novavax Monovalent (12+ years, royal blue cap).

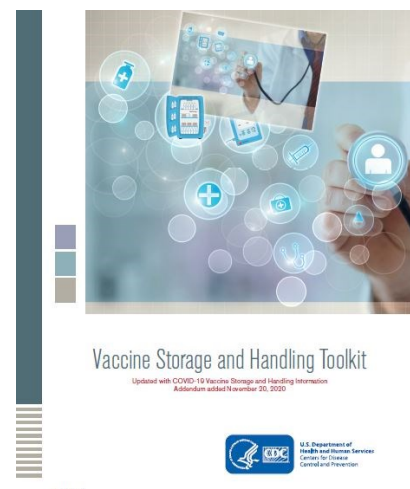
Providers should be mindful of individuals starting their primary series with Moderna Monovalent (12+ years, red cap) and Moderna Monovalent Pediatric (6 years -

11 years, dark blue cap) vaccines. Depending on the date, individuals may not be able to complete their primary series with these products. Remember, a mixed primary series composed of any combination of Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines is not authorized. However, if the same vaccine is not available to complete the primary series, [CDC guidance states](#) “a different COVID-19 vaccine may be administered to complete a primary series at a minimum interval of 28 days from the last COVID-19 vaccine dose. For more information click [here](#) or reach out to us at the Immunization Program.

Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit

The Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit is a comprehensive guide that reflects best practices for vaccine storage and handling from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, product information from vaccine manufacturers, and scientific studies. The Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit has been updated with a COVID-19 and Mpox Vaccines Addendum. All COVID-19 and Mpox vaccination providers partic-

ipating in the specified Vaccination Program must store and handle vaccines under proper conditions to maintain the cold chain as outlined in the toolkit and addendum. For more information about COVID-19 vaccination provider requirements and resources on enrollment, ordering, and data in support of vaccination visit [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support](#).

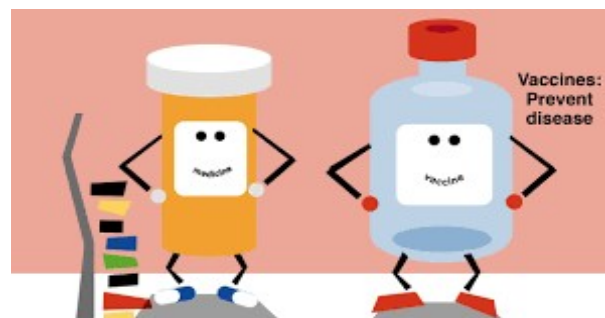


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We are on the web!

<https://vchca.org/immunization-program>

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