Immunization in a Time of COVID-19

Thursday, July 23, 2020
3:00 pm ET
Agenda

- Welcome
- Immunization in a Time of COVID-19
- Local Health Department Response & Operations
- Comments, Q&A
- Closing & Adjourn
Housekeeping

• All participants will be placed in listen-only mode during the presentation segment of the webinar.

• You may submit your questions or comments at anytime through the online platform using the Q&A feature. We will have a discussion period following the presentations during which attendees can pose questions or provide comment.

• The webinar will be recorded and available shortly after today’s webinar. We will also share the slides, call notes and resources from today's presentation as permitted by the speakers.
Immunization in a Time of COVID-19

Amanda Cohn, MD – Chief Medical Officer
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
July 23, 2020

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19
Planning for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season
Summary of 2019-2020 Influenza Season

- Two consecutive waves
  - 1st wave predominantly influenza B/Victoria viruses
  - 2nd wave driven by influenza A (H1N1)
- Pediatric deaths reported to CDC for the 2019-2020 season: 185*

*As of June 13, 2020
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm

Deaths
24,000-62,000

Hospitalizations
410,000-740,000

Medical visits
18,000,000-26,000,000

Illnesses
39,000,000-56,000,000
Adult vaccination coverage is still lower than desired

- Vaccination coverage of racial and ethnic minorities is consistently lower than that of white populations
  - Trends seen for other vaccines and across age groups
- Variance in vaccination rates between black and white adults for HepA, HepB, Td, and Tdap actually increased from 2010–2017
- We need novel and more robust strategies to increase uptake of flu vaccine as well as COVID-19 vaccine, once one becomes available

Source: Vaccination Coverage among Adults in the United States, National Health Interview Survey, CDC, 2017. NH = Non-Hispanic. Vaccinations included in this assessment include influenza, pneumococcal, Td, Tdap, Zoster, HepA, HepB, and HPV.
Increasing Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Coverage to Decrease Healthcare Utilization, 2020/2021

- We expect SARS-CoV-2 to continue to circulate in the Fall
- Increase flu vaccination coverage to decrease stress on the healthcare system:
  - Decrease doctor visits and hospitalizations
  - Decrease individuals seeking diagnostics
- Focus on adults at higher risk from COVID-19 and specific efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities
  - Persons 65 years and older
  - Those with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk of complications from influenza or COVID-19
  - African Americans and Hispanics
  - Staff and residents of Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)
  - Adults who are part of critical infrastructure/essential workers
Influenza vaccination planning for 2020-2021 season

- Maximize available vaccine supply
  - Expect >180M doses for U.S. market
- Operational considerations
  - Outreach to those at higher risk
  - Planning for potential need for social distancing
  - Extending influenza vaccination season (September through December or later)
- Enhancing communication
  - Align with COVID-19 messaging
  - Messaging for African-American and Hispanic communities
Impact of COVID-19 on Pediatric Immunizations
Comparison of Weekly VFC Provider Orders between 2019 and 2020

- Gaps between vaccine orders is narrow in the recent weeks (week-to-week fluctuations)
- Substantial catch-up is still needed
Immunization infrastructure remains strong during COVID-19

Conclusions from survey of VFC providers

- As of May 2020, immunization infrastructure is sufficient to meet patient needs and ensure catch-up vaccination, though some access issues remain.
- Majority of providers will be able to administer vaccines during the critical back-to-school period.
- To help ensure routine childhood vaccine services get back on track, efforts are needed to support providers and parents.
CDC activities with immunization programs and partners to support routine childhood vaccination

- **Monitor** vaccination service delivery to inform targeted interventions
- **Support**
  - Providers through the development of guidance and support materials
  - Catch-up vaccination through reminder/recall systems
  - Access to vaccines by identifying gaps in VFC provider network and increasing funding for VFC vaccine purchase and operations
  - Identification of policy interventions to support healthcare providers
- **Communicate**
  - Importance of vaccination to parents, providers, and partners
  - Information on VFC program to families
- **Plan** back-to-school vaccination activities during the summer and influenza vaccination in the fall
Supporting healthcare providers to deliver childhood vaccines

- Ensure providers are aware of available financial support through the Provider Relief Fund and how to apply for funding
  - As of June 9th, now available to Medicaid and CHIP providers

- Promote catch-up vaccination through dissemination of information on best practices for reminder/recall, including refocusing of IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) activities

- Disseminate guidance on the safe delivery of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic

Provider relief fund portal: https://cares.linkhealth.com/#/
IQIP: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iqip/at-a-glance.html
CDC Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

- Vaccination is an essential medical service for all children and adolescents, ideally in the medical home
- Administer all due or overdue vaccines, according to routine immunization schedule, during the same visit
- Implement strategies to catch patients up on vaccines
  - Start with newborns, infants and children up to age 24 months, young children, and extending through adolescence

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html
Guidance to Safely Provide Immunization Services

- Correlates with CDC Framework for Providing non-COVID-19 Clinical Care
- Includes considerations for use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Consideration of various clinical settings for vaccine administration
- Special focus on priority populations for influenza vaccine
  - those at high-risk for influenza-related complications
  - those at high-risk for severe COVID-19 infection
  - essential workers
- Language aligned with COVID-response websites

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html
Practices for the Safe Delivery of Vaccination Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Follow general CDC guidance to prevent spread of COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including outpatient and ambulatory care settings

**Personal protective equipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face mask</th>
<th>Eye protection</th>
<th>Gloves</th>
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</table>
| • **Recommended**: All healthcare providers  
  • N95 masks not recommended | • **Recommended**: Areas of moderate/substantial community transmission  
 • **Optional**: Areas of minimal/no community transmission | • **Recommended**: intranasal or oral vaccines  
 • **Optional**: intramuscular or subcutaneous vaccines |

Ensure physical distancing during vaccination visits

Separate sick from well patients

- Schedule well and sick visits at different times of the day
- Place sick visits in different areas of the facility or different locations

Ensure physical distancing measures

- At least 6 feet during all aspects of visit: check-in, checkout, screening procedures, postvaccination monitoring
- Use strategies such as physical barriers, signs, ropes, floor markings

Reduce crowding in waiting room

- Ask patients to wait outside (e.g., in their vehicles) until called in

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html; Image credit: Noun Project, CDC
Communicating the importance of well-child and vaccination visits

- Encourage parents to return for well-child visits
- Use reminder/recall systems to help children get up to date as quickly as possible
- Discuss the safety protocols put in place to ensure patients can be safely vaccinated

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html
Promoting awareness of vaccines for Children (VFC) program among parents

- Prior to the pandemic, ~50% of U.S. children eligible to receive free vaccines through VFC
  - More may be eligible now due to recent loss of insurance or increased economic hardship

- Parents of recently-eligible children may not be aware of VFC

- Partners and providers can help improve vaccine access by increasing awareness and enrollment in VFC program

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html
Resources for routine vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic

CDC resources for parents and immunization partners

AAP’s #CallYourPediatrician campaign

Immunization Action Coalition Repository of Resources

https://www.immunizationcoalitions.org/resource-repository/
COVID-19 Vaccine
United States COVID-19 Cases by County

January 21 to July 20, 2020

3,761,362
TOTAL CASES

140,157
TOTAL DEATHS

1,147.5
Cases per 100,000 People

Vaccines Under Development

- Researchers around the world are developing more than 165 vaccines against the coronavirus, of which a fraction are in human trial stages

Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker

By Jonathan Corum, Denise Grady, Sui-Lee Wee and Carl Zimmer  Updated July 21, 2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRECLINICAL</th>
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Vaccines not yet in human trials
Vaccines testing safety and dosage
Vaccines in expanded safety trials
Vaccines in large-scale efficacy tests
Vaccine approved for limited use

Source: https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines
Complex and evolving landscape for COVID-19 vaccine

- One vs. two dose series, products not interchangeable
- Varying presentations
- Vaccine efficacy and adverse event profile in different populations
- Varying cold-chain requirements
- Implementation early may be under an EUA
- Use in children and pregnant women
- Need for socially distanced vaccination practices
- Communication and education
Safety is a priority during all phases of vaccine development, approval, and use.

Post-licensure (post-authorization) safety monitoring is an established part of the vaccine life cycle.

Monitoring COVID-19 vaccine safety will be a coordinated effort by multiple federal agencies.
CDC’s strategic framework for strengthening vaccine confidence and preventing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

### Protect communities

**Strategy: Protect communities at risk from under-vaccination**
- Leverage immunization data to find and respond to communities at risk
- Work with trusted local partners to reach at-risk communities before outbreaks
- Ensure vaccines are available, affordable, and easy-to-get in every community

### Empower families

**Strategy: Get providers and parents effective information resources**
- Expand resources for health care professionals to help them have effective vaccine conversations with parents
- Work with partners to start conversations before the first vaccine appointment
- Help providers foster a culture of immunization in their practices

### Stop myths

**Strategy: Stop misinformation from eroding public trust in vaccines**
- Work with local partners and trusted messengers to improve confidence in vaccines among key, at-risk groups
- Establish partnerships to contain the spread of misinformation
- Educate key new stakeholders (e.g., state policy makers) about vaccines
Critical Role of Public Health Partners

- Local health departments play a critically important role in helping to vaccinate the population.

- We need your help in areas such as:
  - Outreach/Communication
  - Education
  - Access/Coverage
  - Addressing challenges
  - Identifying strategies to reach all communities
  - Addressing misinformation
Thank you

www.cdc.gov
Local Health Department Response and Operations

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Stay Engaged!

Stay tuned for future call and webinar announcements


Connect with us via the Preparedness Inbox at: preparedness@naccho.org