

# Pennsylvania Immunization Program Newsletter



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## A LOOK BACK AND AT WHAT'S TO COME

*As the **Director of the Division of Immunizations**, it is my privilege to lead the Pennsylvania Immunization Program. As we turn the calendar page from one year to the next, it seems a good time to reflect on things. A chance to look back at the year that was, and an opportunity to look at the year ahead.*



*2023 had its highs and lows but it seems to me that there were many noteworthy accomplishments. The one that comes to mind the most prominently for me was the **end of the COVID pandemic**. While it seems that COVID will stay with us long term in some form, we can at least recognize that the emergency phase of this global pandemic has come to an end. In the United States, the federal public health emergency came to an end of May 11, 2023. While looking back on that major milestone, we should also recognize the enormous impact that the COVID vaccination campaign had. In recognizing the three-year anniversary of COVID vaccine in the U.S. on December 7, it was noted that over 700 million doses of vaccine had been administered. It is estimated that that effort has saved over 3 million lives in the U.S., and over \$1 trillion in healthcare costs. That's trillion with a "t". While we mourn those whose lives were lost due to COVID, we can be thankful for the millions of lives saved by the vaccine. Thank you hardly seems enough to say to all those who helped to complete that historic vaccination campaign. When we all work together, we can accomplish some truly wonderful things.*

*Another accomplishment of 2023 was the **commercialization of the COVID vaccines**. These products which had for nearly three years been part of the public health emergency response, now pivoted into becoming a routine vaccine. Making this change was no small feat. Commercializing the COVID vaccines was a big lift, with some aspects still getting fully worked out. Furthermore, we know that there are individuals without insurance, or whose insurance does not cover their vaccines. We want to ensure that those individuals have the same access to vaccines as anyone else. For that reason, CDC made the COVID Bridge Access Program. In Pennsylvania, as in the U.S., this meant establishing a new provider network and enrolling these providers into our program and IIS. And for children, it meant integrating COVID vaccines into the existing VFC Program. Completing the work needed for all of this and getting the 2023-2024 formulation of COVID vaccines out to those who need them was no small task, and I am proud of the staff in the immunization program who accomplished this.*

*To me, 2023 also seemed to have more of a return to "business as usual". This meant many more routine vaccine clinics and events popping up around the state. The 2023 and 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show events were great examples of that and offered an opportunity for PA DOH to be out among the crowds. (It also offered opportunities to enjoy the famous milkshakes.) Another event which stood out was the annual Back to School event at Lancaster's Clipper Stadium. This event, attended by staff from the Bureaus of Communicable Diseases, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Community Health Systems, and Epidemiology, allowed us to connect with thousands of students and their families. These types of events put us into the communities and can have a major impact on the people we serve.*

Another event that we look forward to every year is **the Pennsylvania Immunization Conference (PIC)**. The fact that we've held the event in more recent years at the Hershey Lodge, along with its ample supply of chocolate, is an added bonus. The 2023 conference had one of, if not the largest attendance in PIC's 27-year history. As always, this is a great opportunity to network with colleagues and visit booths from vendors and our partners. Attendees were able to see presentations on a variety of topics, ranging from travel vaccine medicine to how to prevent vaccine storage and handling disasters. There was a presentation from three vaccine advocates on improving immunization rates through community pharmacies, and a presentation by two PA DOH epidemiologists on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The presentation at PIC on RSV was very timely, as 2023 saw the **first approvals of RSV immunization products** by the FDA and CDC. RSV is a common respiratory virus, and for some, it can be severe. Infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV and may be hospitalized. For older adults the vaccines Abrysvo (Pfizer) and Arexvy (GSK) have been approved. Abrysvo was also approved for use in pregnant people between 32- and 36-weeks' gestation. For young children, a new monoclonal antibody immunization, Beyfortus (Sanofi) was approved. All these products presented various challenges as they were released, at a time when initial demand generally far outpaced supply. And for Beyfortus, there was a national shortage for the product. However, having these tools available moving forward will be a major asset when fighting these viruses during respiratory season each fall/winter.

With so many accomplishments and milestones in 2023, it is hard to see how 2024 can measure up. But we are kicking the year off right, with the go live of the **new PIERS system** in January. PIERS is the Pennsylvania Immunization Electronic Registry System. This immunization information system from our vendor Envision will be an immediate and enormous asset to our programs, our providers, and the public. There are many advantages and benefits with PIERS, including a plethora of reports on patient management, coverage statistics, data quality improvement, vaccine, and inventory management, and much more. PIERS has forecasting capabilities based on ACIP recommendations, an HL7 analyzer, reminder/recall, and will connect Pennsylvania to the IZ Gateway. The benefits of PIERS will be many, and we are thrilled to roll out this new system. I would be remiss in noting that without mentioning the countless hours worked to get us to this point. The **IIS team**, led by David Mattiko and his staff, have done an amazing job in mostly behind-the-scenes efforts. Working with partners and collaborators from IT and Envision, having meetings, performing testing and data clean up and so much more. PIERS is truly a team effort, and we hope it brings a great value to the Commonwealth for many years to come.

There are many other things to look forward to in 2024, including some amazing **national conferences**. One of them, the National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships (NCICP) will be held right here in our backyard in Philadelphia. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> NCICP but is the first to be held in Pennsylvania. The only conference dedicated to collaboration and partnerships to improve immunization uptake, educate communities, and prevent the spread of disease, it is an honor to have it here in our state. 2024 will also see the return of the National Immunization Conference (NIC) in August. Due to COVID, the 2020 conference was cancelled and the 2022 not held, so this will be the first NIC since 2018. For those who can attend, it will be a great opportunity to connect for networking and to learn at these national events.

On a more personal note, 2024 is also the year that I have the honor of serving as the **Chair of the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)**. Since 1999, AIM has provided a national voice for immunization programs and a community for program managers to connect and learn from each other. As a leader in AIM, I have had the opportunity to see amazing work being performed around the country in the immunization community. And I can say with confidence that Pennsylvania has some of the most dedicated, passionate champions for immunizations doing truly amazing work, all across the state. I am thrilled to work alongside these public health servants.

Thank you all for the amazing work in 2023, and I look forward with hope and excitement for what 2024 will bring.

Best regards,

Tom

### **Improving PA's VFC Program**

The Division of Immunizations continually looks for ways to improve the VFC Program to better meet the needs of providers and the patients they serve.

- To help us in these efforts, please consider taking this brief, anonymous VFC Provider Satisfaction Survey.
- This survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.
- The information collected will be utilized to improve the program.

Please use this link to be taken to the VFC Provider Satisfaction Survey: [https://VaxFormsSurveys.health.pa.gov/ife/form/SV\\_5myA4AMDlgJxnb8](https://VaxFormsSurveys.health.pa.gov/ife/form/SV_5myA4AMDlgJxnb8).

### **VFC New Provider Enrollment**

The VFC Program welcomes new providers to the program; enrollment is always open!

- To streamline the enrollment process, the procedure is 100% online.
- Please visit the [VFC webpage](#), the Provider Enrollment section, to review the requirements, policies, and procedures.
- Providers must apply on-line to become a new VFC Provider.
- Any applications or documents that are faxed or emailed will not be accepted or reviewed.

For questions regarding new provider enrollment, or becoming a VFC Provider, please visit the [VFC webpage](#) or contact the PA VFC Program at [RA-pavfc@pa.gov](mailto:RA-pavfc@pa.gov).

### **Provider Identification Number (PIN) on All VFC Correspondence**

As a reminder, please include your PIN on all correspondence (including voicemails and emails) and documents sent to the VFC Program.

### **Inventory Management Reminder**

All VFC providers are required to properly manage their inventory according to PA Immunization Program policies and procedures. This includes receiving vaccines into your inventory, updating doses administered, and accounting for any unused vaccines. Inventory management practices are necessary in reducing waste. Please remember to rotate your stock weekly, order only what you need monthly, and contact your Immunization Nurse to relocate vaccine(s) expiring within 90 days that will not be utilized.

### **Ensuring Correct Dosing of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula)**

FDA released [important information](#) to ensure correct dosing of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) to Individuals 6 months through 11 years (0.25mL).

- The announcement advises that providers who administer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) to individuals ages 6 months through 11 years should ensure that the correct volume of the vaccine (0.25 mL) is withdrawn from the vial and administered to the recipient.
- Providers should discard the vial and excess volume after extracting a single 0.25mL dose. Excess volume should not be used to administer an additional dose.
- Additionally, never combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient.

The FDA shared this information after learning some healthcare providers may not recognize that the single dose vial of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) contains more than 0.25 ml of the vaccine and may be withdrawing the entire contents of the vial to administer to an individual. FDA has not identified any safety risks associated with administration of the higher dose in individuals 6 months through 11 years of age, and no serious adverse events related to this issue have been identified.

### **Pevnar 13**

Pevnar 13 should no longer be administered. Remaining stock of Pevnar 13 should be stored until expiration then returned. Pevnar 13 does not have to be stored in vaccine storage unit until expiration. Please do not attempt to return unexpired vaccine.

### **Beyfortus**

We thank you for your patience and understanding during the ongoing national shortage of Beyfortus and the status of VFC ordering availability in PA (excluding Philadelphia).

Providers are encouraged to promote other prevention strategies to help protect babies from severe RSV illness, including the RSV vaccine that can be given during weeks 32 to 36 of pregnancy, and everyday health and hygiene practices like handwashing and staying home when sick.

### **RSV Vaccines**

The CDC has received several reports of vaccine providers who have administered RSV vaccines (Arexvy or Abrysvo) to infants, rather than giving them the RSV monoclonal

antibody product/immunization recommended for infants. The recommended immunizing product (RSV monoclonal antibody) for infants is nirsevimab (trade name: Beyfortus, commercialized by Sanofi and manufactured AstraZeneca). As a reminder, RSV vaccines (Arexvy or Abrysvo) are not approved or recommended for use in infants and young children.

These RSV vaccines have not been studied in infants and young children; therefore, vaccine safety and effectiveness for this population are unknown. Vaccine providers who carry both Nirsevimab for use in infants and young children and RSV vaccines for use in adults and pregnant people should be especially diligent in following vaccine administration safety procedures to prevent errors.

### **FluMist Replacement Program**

The Replacement Program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist Quadrivalent doses, at no cost, to help you maximize product usage opportunities. **This contract is between AstraZeneca and McKesson and is separate from and unrelated to the CDC's contract for centralized product distribution.**

For questions about this *Replacement Program*, please contact the FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program for CDC 2023-2024 Season directly at 1-877-633-7375 or [flumistreplacement@mckesson.com](mailto:flumistreplacement@mckesson.com).

### **The 2024 You Call the Shots Training Modules Is Now Available:**

You Call the Shots is an interactive, web-based immunization training course. Beginning January 1, 2024, many activities that offer CE from CDC will be listed in [CDC TRAIN](#).

- Older modules will continue to use the TCEO system throughout 2024 to provide CE.
- Specific instructions are provided at the end of each module to guide you to the appropriate system.
- To access the available, *You Call the Shots* Modules, please click on this link: [You Call the Shots: Vaccines Web-based Training Course | CDC](#).



## ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATIONS PROGRAM

### Reasons to Get an HPV Vaccine

Almost every unvaccinated person who is sexually active will get Human papillomavirus (HPV) at some time in their life.



- **85%** of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.
- About **13 million Americans**, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. Most HPV infections will go away on their own. But infections that don't go away can cause certain types of cancer.
- There were about **43 million HPV** infections in 2018, many among people in their late teens and early 20s.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. It can cause cancers of the:

- Cervix, vagina, and vulva in women
- Penis in men
- Anus in both women and men
- Back of the throat (called oropharyngeal cancer)

HPV vaccines can prevent some of the health effects HPV causes. According to the CDC, the minimum age to receive the initial dose of an HPV vaccine is 9 years old. All children ages 11–12-years should get HPV vaccine to protect against cancers caused by HPV infections.

### **HPV vaccines work.**

HPV infections, genital warts, and cervical precancers (abnormal cells on the cervix that can lead to cancer) have dropped since the vaccine has been in use in the United States.



- Infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped **88%** among teen girls and 81% among young adult women.
- Among vaccinated women, the percentage of cervical precancers caused by the HPV types most often linked to cervical cancer have dropped by **40%**.

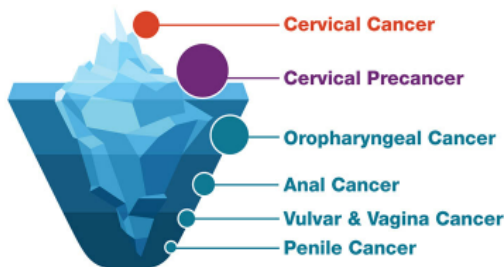
**HPV Vaccination is cancer prevention.**



- HPV is estimated to cause nearly 36,500 cases of cancer in men and women every year in the United States.
- HPV vaccination **can prevent 33,700** of these cancers by preventing the infections that cause them. That’s the same as the **average attendance for a baseball game.**



There Is No Screening for Most Cancers Caused by HPV



**Training opportunities for Spanish speaking parents of adolescents**

**Training details in English:**

The initial Spanish webinar: “Promoting Access to Immunizations in Hispanic Adolescents”. **“Promoviendo Acceso a Vacunas en adolescentes hispanas”** will be held **on January 31, 2024, at 3:00 (EST).**

We are looking for interested family members from your community. Please share this information with others who may be interested in attending, especially the Hispanic organizations, parents, and families you work with.

Anyone interested in attending this training should contact Jennifer M. Torres Del Valle, PhD, MPH, MA, Public Health Program Administrator at [jtordesdel@pa.gov](mailto:jtordesdel@pa.gov).



**Training details in Spanish:****Oportunidades de adiestramientos en español para padres de adolescentes**

El taller virtual titulado “**Promoviendo Acceso a Vacunas en adolescentes hispanas**” estará ofreciéndose completamente en español **el 31 de enero de 2024 a las 3:00pm.**

Agradecemos la difusión de este taller y provean esta sinopsis a los miembros latinos de su comunidad. Y de estar interesados en participar en nuestro taller favor de contactar a Jennifer M. Torres Del Valle, PhD, MPH, MA, Public Health Program Administrator a [jtorrresdel@pa.gov](mailto:jtorrresdel@pa.gov) con el número de participantes hispanohablantes.

**Resources**

[HPV-take-a-shot-at-cancer.pdf \(SECURED\)](#)

[American Cancer Society Recommendations for Human Papilloma Virus \(HPV\) Vaccine Use | American Cancer Society](#)

[Steps-for-increasing-hpv-vaccination-in-practice.pdf \(cancer.org\)](#)

[Resource Center - National HPV Roundtable](#)

[Infección por VPH | Virus del papiloma humano \(VPH\) | CDC](#)

[Virus del papiloma humano 4250-01.pdf \(immunize.org\)](#)

## ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS PROGRAM

### Updated Adult Immunization Schedule

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the updated adult immunization schedule, 2024. There are several updates in the new schedule, including those for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), meningitis, Mpox and COVID-19. The immunization schedule is based on the October 2023 recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP).

The American College of Physicians (ACP) has created video series explaining the updated adult immunization schedule. Providers can view these videos here: [Adult Immunization Videos | ACP Online](#)



### Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious. Each season, RSV causes substantial morbidity and mortality in older adults, including lower respiratory tract disease, hospitalization, and death. There are an estimated 60,000–160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000–10,000 deaths annually due to RSV among adults ages 65 years and older.

### Frequently Asked Questions about RSV Vaccine for Adults

#### **What vaccines are approved for prevention of RSV, and is there a difference between them?**

There are two RSV vaccines approved for adults ages 60 years and older – RSVPreF3 (Arexvy, GSK) and RSVpreF (Abrysvo, Pfizer). Both vaccines are recombinant protein vaccines that cause the immune system to produce RSV antibodies. Both are currently approved as a single dose and were shown in clinical trials protect against symptomatic lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in adults ages 60 and older, with more than 80% percent efficacy in the first RSV season after vaccination. GSK's vaccine includes an adjuvant (the same adjuvant used in GSK's recombinant zoster vaccine [Shingrix]), which is a component that is intended to enhance the immune response to vaccination. Pfizer's vaccine does not contain an adjuvant. CDC does not have a preferential recommendation for either vaccine. Patients who are 60 years and older may receive whichever vaccine is available.

#### **What does it mean to use a shared clinical decision-making (SCDM) recommendation for RSV vaccine?**

CDC recommends that older adults ages 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine using SCDM. A SCDM recommendation differs from routine age-based and risk-based vaccine recommendations for which the default decision is to vaccinate all persons in

a specified age group or risk group. With a SCDM recommendation, there is no group in which the vaccine is universally recommended. Rather, the decision to vaccinate a patient is based on individual health characteristics and informed by discussions between the patient and health care provider.

### **What is the best time of year to give RSV vaccine?**

Optimally, vaccination should occur before the onset of the fall and winter RSV season. However, typical RSV seasonality was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has not returned to pre-pandemic patterns. For the 2023–24 RSV season, providers recommending RSV vaccine based on SCDM should administer RSV vaccine as early as vaccine supply becomes available.

### **Can RSV vaccine be given with other adult vaccines?**

Administration of RSV vaccine on the same day with other adult vaccines is acceptable. However, according to results of coadministration studies of RSV vaccines with influenza vaccines, common side effects, such as fever and soreness at the injection site, may be increased when these two vaccines are administered on the same day. Some studies also suggest it's possible that the RSV and flu vaccines may not produce as strong of an immune response if they're given on the same day, but the clinical significance of this is unknown. Additional research is ongoing to further inform guidance on same day administration of the RSV vaccine and other adult vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Resources to Promote Adult Immunizations**

[Raise the Rates: Community Champion Guide | ACP Online](#) – Apply now to become an ACP Quality Champion and learn the skills to lead a quality improvement initiative (QI) to increase vaccination rates in your practice. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2024.

[High Value Care Immunization Referral Toolkit](#)- Use this resource to facilitate effective and collaborative immunization referrals among those in your patient's neighborhood.

[Vaccine-Catch-Up-Email-Template.docx](#) – Download this email template and send to your patients to encourage them to get up to date with routine immunizations.

[Before you vaccinate Adults, consider their H-A-L-O](#) – Use this easy-to-use chart to help you make an initial decision about vaccinating a patient based on four factors – the patient's Health, Age, Lifestyle and Occupations.

### **Resources**

[Our Best Shot: The Importance of Vaccines for Older Adults  
Adult Immunization Schedule – Healthcare Providers | CDC](#)

## BRIDGE ACCESS PROGRAM

### Administration Fees

Participation in the Bridge Access Program requires that providers offer COVID-19 vaccines at no out-of-pocket cost to uninsured individuals. **Patients should not be asked to pay administration fees.** Healthcare providers participating in the Bridge Access Program should not charge uninsured COVID-19 vaccine recipients administration fees as these costs are covered by the federal government.

Pharmacies participating in the Bridge Access Program are also required to offer COVID-19 vaccines at no out-of-pocket cost to uninsured individuals. The Bridge Access Program provides a per-dose payment to pharmacies to facilitate the administration of COVID-19 vaccines at pharmacies, relying on vaccine manufacturers' public and private commitments to provide COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to uninsured adults.

### Four Pharmacy Reminders

1. CVS and Walgreens do not use a voucher system under the Bridge Access Program. To determine whether patients are eligible for the program, these retail pharmacies ask patients about their health insurance status at the point of care.
2. Uninsured or underinsured people seeking COVID-19 vaccination at a pharmacy under eTrueNorth must [register on the eTrueNorth website](#) to receive a voucher for vaccination.
  - Questions about the vouchers issued by eTrueNorth should be directed to [support@eTruenorth.com](mailto:support@eTruenorth.com).
  - Individuals can call the eTrueNorth customer support team at (800) 635-8611 to get assistance with completing the voucher process.
  - Registration can be performed prior to visiting the participating pharmacy or in real-time at the pharmacy location via smartphone access or telephonically.
3. CVS is not currently providing pop-up or community sites. Organizations interested in setting up a community clinic by working with a pharmacy participating in the Bridge Access Program should reach out to Walgreens or eTrueNorth via these channels:
  - Walgreens Community Outreach: <https://wagsoutreach.com/contact-us>
  - Walgreens LTCF Vaccination: <https://wagsoutreach.com/LTCF-Contact-Us>
  - eTrueNorth: [communityBAP@etrueorth.com](mailto:communityBAP@etrueorth.com)
4. Among pharmacies participating in the Bridge Access Program, only CVS is currently carrying Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

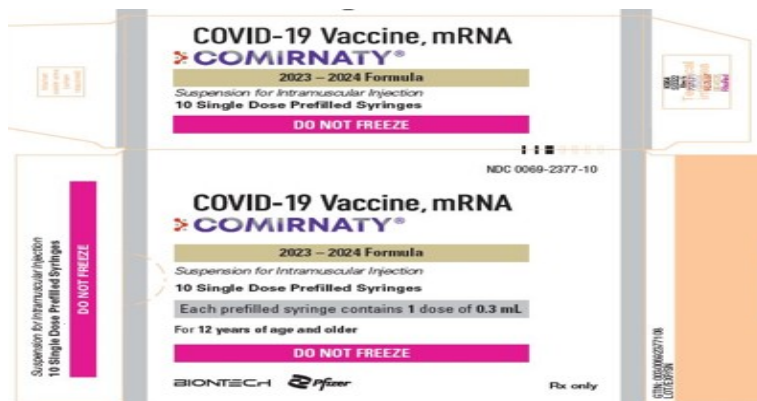
### **Change to Pfizer 12 y+ COVID 19 Vaccine**

There has been a change to the Pfizer 12y+ COVID-19 vaccine offered for the VFC program.

- As of December 19, 2023, the old Pfizer 12y+ product has been replaced by Pfizer's new refrigerated 12y+ vaccine (NDC 00069-2377-10), a new presentation in a carton of 10 manufacturer-filled syringes (MFS).

### **Key Storage and Handling Information:**

- This new presentation **MUST BE STORED BETWEEN 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)**.
- Do **NOT** store at ultra-cold or standard freezer temperatures.
- These manufacturer-filled syringes can be used through the expiration date printed on the carton.
- The 10-week beyond-use date (BUD) for refrigerator storage does not apply.
- This guidance applies to this presentation **ONLY**.
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 6m-4y and 5y-11y, which are shipped to providers on dry ice and can be stored either at ultracold temperatures until expiry or up to 10 weeks at 2-8C.
- The carton includes a bright pink stripe that includes the words "DO NOT FREEZE" to alert the provider about the storage and handling requirements for this vaccine.



Providers who have the original Pfizer 12y+ vaccine on hand can and should continue to use this product until it is consumed, expired, or has been stored at 2-8C for longer than the allowable 10 weeks.

### **Resources**

[Recommended updated \(2023-2024\) Formula Covid-19 vaccines for people who are NOT moderately or severely immunocompromised-October 12, 2023 \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/pdf/23-0101.pdf)

[Recommend updated \(2023-2024 Formula\) COVID-19 vaccines for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/pdf/23-0101.pdf)

## MPOX VACCINE PROGRAM

### State of the Outbreak

Five new Mpox cases have been diagnosed across the state since Thanksgiving (4 in Philadelphia) bringing the total Mpox case count to 876 across the Commonwealth; 561 cases in Philadelphia and 315 in the rest of the state. As of January 5, 2024, a total of 17,244 doses of JYNNEOS have been administered; 61% of which are first doses and 39% are second doses. While vaccine continues to be delivered to at-risk individuals, the Commonwealth still has a long way to go in its effort to prevent any future resurgence in Mpox cases as approximately 70% of those [most at-risk in PA](#) still have not received their first dose. Among those who have received at least one dose, just over half have been fully vaccinated. Per the CDC, receiving the full 2-dose series increases protection against Mpox greatly, as demonstrated by the following reports through MMWR:

- [Receipt of First and Second Doses of JYNNEOS Vaccine for Prevention of Monkeypox — United States, May 22–October 10, 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Effectiveness of JYNNEOS Vaccine Against Diagnosed Mpox Infection — New York, 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

### Updates from CDC Public Health Emergency Response on Mpox

On December 7, 2023, CDC released a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory regarding [Mpox Caused by Human-to-Human Transmission of Monkeypox Virus with Geographic Spread in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#). On December 8, 2023, PADOH followed suit with a Health Advisory ([PA-HAN – 729-12-08](#)) regarding the transmission of Clade I Monkeypox virus (MPVX).

On August 7, 2023, CDC updated the Mpox webpage - [Demographics of Patients Receiving TPOXX for Treatment of Mpox | Mpox | Poxvirus | CDC](#) with information regarding CDC holding an [expanded access Investigational New Drug \(EA-IND\) protocol](#) for use of tecovirimat (TPOXX) for treatment of mpox. The IND forms are required to be submitted to CDC.

### Updated ACIP Recommendations for JYNNEOS

ACIP recommends vaccination\* with the 2-dose<sup>§</sup> JYNNEOS vaccine series for persons aged 18 years and older at risk for Mpox<sup>¶</sup>.

*\* This is an interim recommendation that ACIP will revisit in 2-3 years*

*§ Dose 2 administered 28 days after dose 1*

*¶ Persons at risk:*



- *Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had one of the following:*
  - *A new diagnosis of  $\geq 1$  sexually transmitted disease*
  - *More than one sex partner*
  - *Sex at a commercial sex venue*
  - *Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where mpox transmission is occurring.*
- *Sexual partners of persons with the risks described in above.*
- *Persons who anticipate experiencing any of the above*

Providers are encouraged to have a discussion with the patient regarding the potential routes of administration, especially if the patient expresses concern of stigma or a history of keloid scarring. As of August 2, 2023, this consideration is reflected under both the CDC's [interim clinical considerations for the JYNNEOS vaccine](#), as well as Section 15 of the [HHS Mpox Vaccination Program Provider Agreement](#): "Either the standard (0.5mL Subcut) or the alternative (0.1mL ID) regimen may be used. Providers may discuss with patients to determine which route of administration each patient prefers."

### **Ordering JYNNEOS**

All JYNNEOS orders shall be submitted to DOH via the [PADOH MPOX Vaccine Supply Request Form](#). Providers may submit JYNNEOS requests any day or time; however, DOH only submits orders to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) on Wednesdays. The cutoff for weekly processing is Mondays at 11:59pm to allow time for review and processing. Orders received after will be included in the following week's order. Distribution of the vaccine occurs through direct-to-site shipping from the SNS, with vaccine typically arriving at Provider sites within 24-48 hours.

### **MPOX Vaccine locator**

If your organization hasn't already done so, DOH encourages providers that offer the Mpox vaccine to add their location to the [MPOX Vaccine Locator](#). **For Providers that are not listed on the locator:**

- *Step 1: Organizations that offer Mpox Vaccine but do not appear on the Mpox Vaccine Locator Widget can submit their information to [npin.cdc.gov/organization/submit](https://npin.cdc.gov/organization/submit)*
- *Step 2: Add the widget to your website by getting the embed code from [www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/vaccines/](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/vaccines/) and clicking on "Embed" on the widget.*

## PENNSYLVANIA IMMUNIZATION ELECTRONIC REGISTRY SYSTEM (PIERS)



As previously announced, the Pennsylvania immunization registry has now transitioned to a new Immunization Information System (IIS) named [Pennsylvania Immunization Electronic Registry System \(PIERS\)](#) that went live on January 17, 2024. All current PA-SIIS users will need a PIERS account to access the new system. Access to PIERS will be granted by registering as a Business Partner through Keystone ID. Effective July 1, 2024, providers will be required to enter all VFC vaccine administrations into PIERS. More details about this requirement will be communicated to providers during the reenrollment period from April 1 through May 31, 2024.

For instructions on how to register as a Business Partner, please see the [PIERS Business Partner Registration Guide](#).

**Please note:** Business Partner refers to any individual that is not a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania employee that will need access to PIERS to view an immunization record, report a vaccine administration, place a vaccine order, or manage vaccine inventory. Business Partner does not refer to a business, facility, or clinic. In addition, each person at your facility accessing PIERS will need their own individual Business Partner/PIERS account using a unique email. For security reasons, accounts cannot be shared amongst multiple people in the same facility.

### **For Those Who Have Not Registered for a PIERS User Account**

#### **PIERS Training**

- If you haven't done so already, please be sure to take a PIERS introductory training course either live, virtually via Teams, or by watching the self-paced recorded PIERS training session on TRAIN PA.
- Registration for PIERS training courses will take place via TRAIN PA.
- <https://www.train.org/pa/home>
- If you do not already have a TRAIN PA account, you must register for one prior to registering for a PIERS training course.
- For additional assistance in creating a TRAIN PA account, please see, "[How to create a train account](#)".

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to PIERS team at **1-877-774-4748** or email us at [RA-DHPIERSSUPPORT@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHPIERSSUPPORT@pa.gov).

## WEBINARS AND CONFERENCES

### VFC New Provider Training Webinar

The Division of Immunizations (DOI) offers monthly webinars on the third Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., to introduce new providers to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. These webinars will give all new and existing providers the opportunity to learn about the requirements of the program and ask questions. Direct all inquiries about these webinars to [ra-pavfc@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pavfc@pa.gov).

#### **Upcoming webinars include:**

Thursday, **February 15, 2024.**

**TIME:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, **March 21, 2024.**

**TIME:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

### 2024 National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships (NCICP)

The National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships (NCICP) is coming to Pennsylvania: Engaging Communities: Expanding Alliances & Advancing Equity.

**DATES:** April 9 – 11, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Loews Philadelphia, 1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

**REGISTRATION COST:** \$575.00 per person

**NCICP 2024 Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities** are available.

**NCICP 2024 WEBSITE:** For more information about NCICP 2024 please visit the website: <https://www.loewshotels.com/philadelphia-hotel>

### 2024: Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition (PAIC) Annual Coalition Meeting

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024

**TIME:** 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA.

**For More Information:** Once available, please visit: <https://www.immunizepa.org/>.

## CONTACT US

General concerns and questions please call our main line at **888-646-6864**. Program specific inquiries:

**VFC:** [ra-pavfc@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pavfc@pa.gov)

**Adolescent & Adult Vaccine:** [ra-dhimmunize@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhimmunize@pa.gov)

**COVID Vaccine/Bridge Access Program:** [ra-dhccovidvax@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhccovidvax@pa.gov)

**Mpox:** [ra-dhMpox\\_vax@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhMpox_vax@pa.gov)

**PIERS (general inquiries):** [RA-DHPIERSSUPPORT@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHPIERSSUPPORT@pa.gov)



# PENNSYLVANIA IMMUNIZATION CONFERENCE

**Join us for the 28th Pennsylvania Immunization Conference  
jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and  
Penn State College of Medicine.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024**

### IN-PERSON LOCATION

**Hershey Lodge  
325 University Drive  
Hershey, PA 17033**

### INTERNET LIVE COURSE

**This training will be offered as a live  
online course, with details provided to  
registered participants in advance of  
the event.**

For more information, questions, requests to be placed on the PIC distribution listing to receive updates, and interests in serving as a **PIC 2024 Conference Exhibitor**, please visit: <https://ce.med.psu.edu/pennsylvania-immunization-conference/>