

# Vaccine Advisory Committee

## General Program Updates

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Read on to see the latest program updates for the Office of Immunization and COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

### **Use of IIS to Verify Immunization Status in Long-Term Care Facilities**

DOH is currently working to enroll a small population of Long-Term Care Facilities in a quality improvement project. This project aims to increase the use of the Immunization Information System (IIS) within the facilities for access to medically verified vaccination status of residents. The ultimate project goals are to ensure accurate information is used for immunization decision making to reduce redundant doses and increase uptake of timely immunizations.

### **2023 Immunize Washington Campaign**

DOH, in association with Health Care Authority, Governor Jay Inslee, and all Washington major health plans is proud to announce the 2023 Immunize Washington Provider Recognition Awards. 2023 marks the ninth year the Health Plan Partnership has hosted the awards. The award recognizes clinics that reach immunization rates of 70% or higher in child and/or adolescent patient populations. This year's award returns to the pre-pandemic process of self-nominations from June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. More information can be found: [Immunize Washington | Washington State Department of Health](#).

### **Standing Orders**

Standing orders for COVID-19 vaccine issued by DOH will expire on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in conjunction with the ending of the federal COVID-19 emergency declarations. The federal PREP Act declaration gave DOH the authority to issue these standing orders while an applicable emergency declaration remained in place. Starting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, standing orders previously issued by DOH can no longer be used to administer COVID-19 vaccines. As such, we are urging all organizations, pharmacies, and other facilities that have been using DOH standing orders to determine another signature authority to use if needed. We are still learning about how best to assist providers that may be affected and are hopeful we will be able to minimize any disruption to COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

### **Anticipated Moderna Sunset & Expansion of Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine**

Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be authorized for primary series doses by next week. This means the primary series **and** booster(s) will use the bivalent formulation. When this change occurs, all EUAs for bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will be updated accordingly and EUAs for monovalent COVID-19 vaccine products will be rescinded. We are anticipating that these

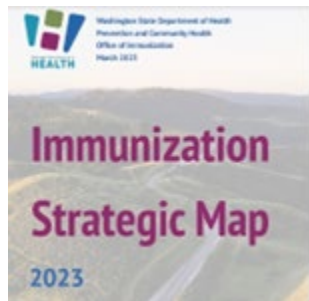
changes will be authorized by the FDA very soon and then endorsed by the CDC as soon as the ACIP's scheduled meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

DOH will be working with enrolled providers and partners to share updates as we learn them and provide technical assistance. DOH will update standing orders following CDC endorsement of bivalent products for primary series to minimize any disruption in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

## Anticipated Additional Booster

The World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recently revised the roadmap for prioritizing the use of COVID-19 vaccines. Their new guidance reflects the impact of the Omicron variant and high population-level immunity due to infection and vaccination. The revised roadmap reemphasizes the importance of vaccinating "high priority" individuals still at risk of severe disease, mostly older adults (65+) and those with immunocompromising conditions. We are anticipating that the FDA will announce authorization for an additional bivalent booster dose for these individuals soon. DOH is currently awaiting guidance from federal partners for next steps and expect CDC endorsement to follow the scheduled ACIP meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be sharing information with our partners as we receive it.

## Immunization Strategic Map



Office of Immunization is pleased to share our [2023 Immunization Strategic Map](#). The strategic map outlines our internal programmatic, communication, and staff development goals for the 2023 year. We are sharing with partners to provide visibility into the Department of Health Office of Immunization goals and priorities for the year. This includes goals for increasing vaccination coverage, visioning our future state immunization infrastructure, and improving communication, both internally and externally, to assure important vaccine updates are shared in multiple ways. The immunization strategic map aligns and advances goals in the [DOH transformational plan](#). We invite you to read and [let us know](#) if you have any questions or feedback.

## IIS Update

MyIR is a consumer access tool that allows users to view their immunization records. Last month, The Washington State Department of Health implemented a Custom School Vaccination Record that is state certified. Consumer users can now generate these reports.

As of March 29<sup>th</sup>, the WAIS is connected to the Department of Defense, and we are actively exchanging live patient data. Washington is the first and only state to participate in this pilot and will be leading the way for subsequent DoD-State connections. Please note that any active-duty military patient records will not be shared, and any data generated prior to March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, will not be exchanged.

## Washington State Immunization Summit – May 25

The Washington State Immunization Summit registration is open! For more information, visit: <https://withinreachwa.org/event/wa-immunization-summit-2023>

Washington State Immunization Summit  
May 25, 2023 | Tacoma, WA



The 2023 Immunization Summit will:

- Provide tools, skills, and knowledge to be successful in equitably improving vaccination rates
- Celebrate and highlight the work of the immunization community
- Share lessons learned and experiences through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provide an opportunity to learn about emerging and ongoing immunization best practices to apply to diverse communities

Topics will include lessons learned from COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, community-based initiatives, “HPV at 9” in Washington State, practical strategies to addressing vaccine hesitancy, and the current state of immunizations in Washington. This year’s event will be presented in a hybrid format – with both virtual and in-person meeting options.

## **SBOH School-Aged Immunizations Update**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jamilia Sherls-Jones, Director of the Office of Immunization, and Katherine Graff, School and Child Care Immunization Nurse Consultant, provided an update to the State Board of Health. This update included:

- Overview of immunization law and rules
- Overview of immunization requirements for schools and childcares
- Certificate of Immunization Status or (CIS) form
- Allowable exemptions from the immunization requirements and the Certificate of Exemption (COE) form
- Data analysis of immunization coverage in school-aged population (pre- to post-pandemic timeframes) highlighting:
  - School-age Immunization Information System (IIS) data at vaccination milestones: 19-35 months, 4-10 years\*, 11-12 years, 13-17 years
  - Bi-annual estimates during a pre-to-post pandemic timeframe: December 2018 thru December 2022
  - All required immunizations for each milestone age group

\*Note: 4-6 years is the standard milestone age group but was expanded to include all grade school ages.

Meeting materials and recording can be accessed here: [Meeting Information and Materials | SBOH \(wa.gov\)](#). The immunization coverage in school-aged population portions of this presentation will be shared at our April 13<sup>th</sup> VAC meeting.

## **School Immunization Update**

School Immunization Data has been collected for the 2022-23 school year and is in the process of being cleaned, geocoded, and analyzed. Data is expected to be ready by May 15th when the CDC grant report is due and can be available to the public and local health jurisdictions shortly after.

## **Adult Vaccine Program**

The Washington State Adult Vaccine Program received a record number of vaccine requests during our first ordering opportunity of the year. The program distributed over 6,000 doses of vaccine to over 100 provider facilities totaling more than \$504,000. The following vaccines were made available using federal 317 funding for uninsured and underinsured adults: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A/B, HPV, MMR, Pneumococcal, Tdap, and Zoster (Shingles). Another ordering opportunity will be available in late summer.

## Flu Vaccine Update

The table below shows the flu vaccine that was distributed by the Childhood Vaccine Program this season. Distribution has been lower than in prior years with only a few months left in the flu season. We also placed our pre-book with CDC for the 2023-2024 season which includes a small quantity of flu vaccine for uninsured adults aged 19 years and older.

Product	Doses Ordered by Providers
0.5mL <b>Flucelvax</b> Availability (6 months - 18 years)	9,660
0.5mL <b>FluLaval</b> Availability (6 months - 18 years)	186,490
0.5mL <b>Fluzone</b> Availability (6 months - 18 years)	212,390
5.0mL Multi-Dose Vial <b>Fluzone</b> Availability (3 - 18 years)	10,610
0.2mL <b>FluMist</b> Availability (2 - 18 years)	16,170
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>435,320</b>

## Radio KDNA Interview – COVID-19 Vaccines

Office of Immunizations Director, Dr. Jamilia Sherls-Jones was recently interviewed by Radio KDNA, a Spanish radio station based in Yakima. Jamilia talked about the importance of COVID-19 immunizations and provided information on COVID-19 vaccines that are now available to children. The interview aired on March 8, 2023.

## Recognitions

### STCHealth Thought Leadership Consortium

During the STCHealth Thought Leadership Consortium in March 2023, Washington was nominated and awarded by its peer states, the 2022 Consortium State of the Year. It is a tremendous honor for the IIS program. We would also like to recognize our internal staff members with the Office of Immunization, COVID-19 Vaccine Program, and Office of Innovation & Technology as well as our external partners for all their contributions.

### Article to be published in the AJP

This manuscript is authored by Tyler Moore and is a deep dive analysis of School Report data. The article used aggregated WA Annual School Immunization Report data from 2014-2022 to assess the change in MMR completion and exemption rates before and after EHB 1638 implementation (implemented July 2019). These rates were also mapped to explore geographic clustering and to understand the geographic differences in the impact of EHB 1638.

In addition to the publication, this work will be presented at the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) Conference. Tyler shared the following links in the data between his analyses: both data sources suggest that immunization policies can increase vaccination coverage rates but must account for a replacement effect if an exemption category is eliminated.

### AIRA Abstracts Summary

The Office of Immunization Assessment team submitted several abstracts for consideration for presentation at the annual AIRA meeting. Four were accepted:

*(Presenter: Tyler Moore)*

A comparison of data sources used to assess the impact of a state policy removing personal belief exemptions for the MMR school immunization requirement (EHB 1638) in WA state. We utilized the (1) aggregated WA Annual School Immunization Report and (2) sample student rosters linked to individual patients in the WA Immunization Information System and highlight the uses, limitations, and main conclusions from each data source.

*(Presenter: Emily Youngers):*

The abstract, “Forming a Workgroup for Methodological Standardization and Collaboration” will discuss the formation and evolution of a workgroup that was stood up by members of the Assessment and Informatics Sections to improve collaboration and communication across teams while providing a forum to discuss shared topics. Seven subcommittees were established to work on monitoring changing clinical guidelines, developing resources, supporting transition to a new computing environment, creating a code library, standardizing trend codes, creating data visualizations, and developing population denominator methodologies.

*(Presenter: Maham Choudry)*

Antenatal COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake in Washington State, December 2020 – December 2021, which showed that, during this timeframe, 24.8% of pregnant people initiated and 20.8% completed the COVID-19 vaccination series during pregnancy. Of those who initiated, 80% did so within 180 days of the vaccine becoming available to them or becoming pregnant. COVID-19 vaccination uptake among pregnant people varied by several factors including vaccine prioritization, access, and availability. The analysis emphasized that antenatal care providers should incorporate the recommendation of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy into routine care to optimize maternal and infant health outcomes.

*(Presenter: Lauren MacHarg)*

With the shift from pandemic to endemic, epidemiologists recognized the opportunity for an updated dashboard that reflects user input and meets evolving needs for COVID-19 data. Epidemiologists used targeted user feedback throughout the recent redesign process, ensuring that the updated dashboard meets the design and data needs of users.

**Office of Immunization**

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