



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**

## HoosierVax Health: Vaccine insights for providers

July 2023

### Spotlight

# START SMART!

**Schedule your child's routine  
back-to-school immunizations today.**



### Back-to-School Vaccinations: Start Smart!

As the school year comes to a close and children eagerly begin their summer vacation, it is essential for us, as healthcare providers, to remain committed to safeguarding the well-being of our young patients. Vaccinations serve as a powerful tool to prevent diseases and promote the health and welfare of children, providing them with a shield of protection against potentially harmful infections.

Over the past few years we have all been greatly impacted by the pandemic, which has led to patients experiencing vaccine fatigue, as well as significant delays in children receiving their immunizations. However, with the new school year soon to start school children entering kindergarten, sixth grade, and 12th grade to be up to date on their required [age-specific immunizations \(Español\)](#) before the school year begins. With the end of summer break approaching rapidly, our young patients will soon be heading back to school. We highly encourage you to proactively reach out to their families and schedule appointments to catch up on their required age-specific immunizations.

Vaccines not only contribute to the individual health of each child but also protect the wider student population, and they have proven instrumental in eradicating certain diseases. Take a proactive approach and encourage parents to prioritize immunizations as part of their back-to-school preparations. By scheduling appointments and ensuring routine immunizations are completed, healthcare providers can collectively safeguard the health and well-being of our young patients as they return to the school environment.

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## Reasons to Celebrate

### 2023 Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair

The 37th Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair (IBMHF) is scheduled to take place from July 13 to 16 at the Indiana Convention Center. This event is dedicated to increasing minority awareness of chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, and cancer, and educating attendees on preventive measures. The goal of the IBMHF aligns with the Indiana Department of Health's mission to promote, provide, and enhance essential public health services.

One of the primary objectives of the Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair is to raise public awareness about the health issues that disproportionately affect minority communities. By collecting data on self-reported race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, health behaviors, and risk factors, researchers can identify the root causes behind differences in morbidity, chronic illness, and mortality rates among specific racial and ethnic subgroups. This information enables state health representatives to develop targeted programs that address these health disparities and positively impact the health and well-being of Hoosiers.

Attendee's will have access to valuable resources, educational materials, and health screenings that can empower them to make informed decisions about their health. The event serves as a platform for health professionals, community leaders, and individuals to come together, exchange knowledge, and work towards reducing health disparities in minority communities.

So mark your calendars for the 37th Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair, where we will join forces to raise awareness, promote preventive measures, and advance health equity for all Hoosiers.

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### Immunization Champion

The Indiana Department of Health's Immunization Division is thrilled to recognize the Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) as our first Immunization Champion. As it marks its 20th anniversary of dedicated service to the community, IIC has been a beacon of immunization advocacy, education, and access in Indiana, making a significant impact on and in our communities.

Through its unwavering commitment, the IIC has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the importance of vaccinations and dispelling misinformation. Its educational campaigns, community events, and collaborations with healthcare providers have empowered individuals to make informed decisions and protect themselves and their loved ones.

The IIC's efforts have not only helped boost immunization rates across the state but also influenced policy and practices. Its partnerships with government agencies and healthcare institutions have led to the implementation of evidence-based strategies, ensuring equitable access to vaccines for all Hoosiers.

As we celebrate ICC's 20th anniversary, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Indiana Immunization Coalition for tireless work safeguarding the health of Indiana residents. Its dedication and impact have been instrumental in reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and saving lives. Here's to 20 years of success and many more to come as IIC continues to champion immunization and protect the well-being of our state.

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## Updates

### COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization

As the transition of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments from government procurement to established commercial pathways progresses, it is important for healthcare providers to stay informed. Here are some key points:

#### Commercialization

This is the transition of COVID-19 medical countermeasures, including vaccines, treatments, and test kits, from the U.S. government (USG) to established pathways of procurement, distribution, and payment by public and private payers. This allows manufacturers, logistics companies, and payors to operate within existing commercial markets.

#### Timeline for Commercialization

The transition of vaccines to more traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment is expected to occur in early fall. The exact dates for COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics are being determined by the USG, and more information will be shared when available. The transition of treatments to commercial markets will vary by product and is anticipated to happen for at least one product before the end of the year.

#### Impact of the End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)

The end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11 does not affect the transition of vaccines and treatments to commercial markets. All vaccines and treatments purchased by the U.S. government will continue to be distributed and available for free to U.S. residents. The PHE does not impact the supply or distribution of vaccines, treatments, or FDA's authorization processes.

#### Accessibility of COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments during Commercialization

Ensuring accessibility of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments remains a top priority for the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Vaccines and treatments will continue to be available at existing distribution points, such as pharmacies and healthcare providers. Most U.S. residents will still have access to free vaccines through various programs, including the Vaccines for Children Program, Children's Health Insurance Program, most commercial insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid. For individuals with Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance, covered treatments may be accessible with potential cost-sharing.

#### Support for the Uninsured and Underinsured

Efforts are underway to provide support for the uninsured and underinsured populations. CDC's Vaccines for Children Program will cover uninsured children, ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines as part of routine vaccination. Patient Assistance Programs are being developed to facilitate free access to vaccines and treatments, making them widely available and easy to use. Additionally, investments are being made in health systems and programs that support vaccine access and outreach in underserved communities, leveraging Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, and state and local health departments.

COVID-19 remains a significant public health concern, and the administration remains committed to maximizing the availability of vaccines and treatments. As commercialization progresses, the intention is to ensure a smooth transition while maintaining accessibility for all U.S. residents.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to providing excellent care to your patients. We will continue to keep you updated as further developments arise.

For more information visit:

- HHS (n.d.): [Commercialization of COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures](#)
- CDC (May 2023): [FAQs for the Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID](#)

### Vaccine-Preventable Disease Reporting

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has updated Indiana's notifiable conditions list and reporting timeframes, effective April 1.

Most vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) are reportable in Indiana. While appropriate laboratory testing for suspected cases of VPDs should be performed whenever possible, providers should be aware that several VPDs, including mumps, pertussis, tetanus, and varicella (chickenpox), are reportable based on clinical diagnosis alone, even if laboratory results are unavailable.

Additionally, the following vaccine-preventable diseases are reportable immediately upon suspicion without waiting for final laboratory confirmation:

- Diphtheria
- Measles (Rubeola)
- Meningococcal Disease
- Polio
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Rubella Congenital Syndrome
- Smallpox

Immediately notifiable conditions should be reported by phone to IDOH at 317-233-7125 during business hours (M-F, 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.) or 317-233-1325 after hours. Conditions to be reported by phone to IDOH reporting guidance. It is important to note that hospitals, providers, and laboratories are independently required to report; providers should not rely solely on lab reporting to meet reporting requirements.

For more information about Indiana's Communicable Disease Rule and a complete list of reportable diseases, please visit IDOH's communicable disease reporting page.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

If you have regarding reporting vaccine-preventable diseases, please contact vaccine-preventable diseases epidemiologists:

- Lauren Milroy, [lmilroy@health.in.gov](mailto:lmilroy@health.in.gov), 317-234-2807
- Makayla Culbertson, [mculbertson@health.in.gov](mailto:mculbertson@health.in.gov), 317-233-7112

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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