

# MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE AUGUST 2017



## 2016-2017 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Exempt from Replacement Policy

After taking a number of factors into consideration, the Maine Immunization Program has decided to exempt influenza vaccine from the Vaccine Replacement Procedure for the 2016-2017 flu season only. This means any expired influenza vaccine ordered for the 2016-2017 season will not count against your 5% preventable vaccine wastage allowance. We ask that you do your part by reconciling your inventory as soon as possible and return all expired vaccine to McKesson for excise tax credit within 30 days of reconciliation.

Please note that all of the influenza vaccine ordered for the 2017-2018 flu season will be subject to the Vaccine Replacement Procedure. When ordering influenza vaccine, please remember to only order enough influenza vaccine for 4-6 weeks at a time. To help your facility determine how much influenza vaccine you may need to order for the upcoming season, you will be receiving a *Flu Vaccine Report* outlining your wastage of the influenza vaccine for the 2016-2017 season.

For more tips on how to reduce wastage, check out our [Vaccine Replacement Procedure Toolkit](#).

## Changes in VAERS Reporting

CDC and the FDA have announced a new Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting (VAERS) website and reporting form that allows people to:

- Easily submit a VAERS report electronically
- Access VAERS data
- Learn more about how CDC and FDA monitor the safety of vaccines

There are now two ways to report to VAERS an adverse event following vaccination: Use the online reporting tool or complete a paper VAERS form (PDF format) and upload it to the new VAERS website. By the end of 2017, CDC and FDA will phase out the VAERS paper form and fully transition to the new VAERS 2.0 electronic submission process. Additional assistance is available via email at [info@vaers.org](mailto:info@vaers.org) or by phone at 1-800-822-7967. More information is available at [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org).

## Reminder: Gardasil & Trumenba Schedule Changes

Both Gardasil (Human Papillomavirus 9-valent Vaccine, Recombinant) and Trumenba (Meningococcal Group B Vaccine) have received FDA approval within the past year to go from 3 dose to 2 dose schedules in certain patients.

MMWR published new, [updated ACIP recommendations for Gardasil](#) in December 2016. Only 2 doses are needed for boys and girls who initiate the vaccination series at 9 through 14 years of age, 3 doses are still recommended for those aged 15 through 26 and for immunocompromised persons.

MMWR also published [updated ACIP recommendations for Trumenba](#) (recommendations for Bexsero remain unchanged). For persons aged 10 or older, 2 doses of Trumenba are sufficient if the second dose is administered 6 months or more after the first dose. For those aged 16-23 years, who are at increased risk, 2 doses should be administered at 0 and 6 months.

## AFIX Corner

### SUMMER IMMUNIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

As children prepare for their first day of school, sports activities, or as they prepare for college, check every patient's immunization status during each visit to determine if they are up-to-date. Some visits may not be the right time for vaccination, however education can be given or nurse only appointments can be scheduled for an "immunization only" visit.

Studies show that parents trust their child's doctor; health care providers can speak from experience, education and have a relationship with their patients.

Your office can host a "Catch-Up Day", giving parents a chance to catch their child up on immunizations. For more information about a "Catch-Up Day" and how to proceed with one, call Clara Alvarez, AFIX Coordinator at 207-287-4068.



### June 2017 ACIP Meeting Recording Available

William Schaffner, MD, NFID Medical Director and liaison to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), is joined by Amanda Cohn, MD, MPH, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to discuss updates from the June 2017 ACIP meeting, including updated vaccination recommendations for adults, adolescents, and children.

To view the webinar, visit the National Foundation for Infectious Disease [website](#).

### August is National Immunization Awareness Month

The National Public Health Information Coalition is excited to unveil a new [communications toolkit](#) with social media tools and vaccine information for National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This year, each week in August will be devoted to a specific topic including:

July 31—August 6: Babies and Young Children: A healthy start begins with on-time vaccinations

August 7–13: Pregnant Women: Protect yourself and pass protection on to your baby

August 14–20: Adults: Vaccines are not just for kids

August 21–27: Preteens/teens: Ensure a healthy future with vaccines

If you have any questions,  
please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:

(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775

[www.ImmunizeME.org](http://www.ImmunizeME.org)

