Janet T. Mills Governor



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Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D. Commissioner

To: Maine Immunization Providers From: Maine Immunization Program Subject: Interim Guidance for Immunization Services Date: June 16, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how healthcare providers operate and provide essential services to patients. Ensuring that immunization services are maintained or reinitiated is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks as well as reducing the burden of respiratory illness on healthcare systems during the upcoming influenza season.

The U.S. CDC has issued <u>"Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19</u> <u>Pandemic"</u> to help immunization providers in a variety of clinical settings plan for the safe vaccine administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance will be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

Highlights include:

- Considerations for routine vaccination of all recommended vaccinations for children, adolescents, and adults, including pregnant women
- General practices for the safe delivery of vaccination services, including considerations for alternative vaccination sites
- Strategies for catch up vaccinations

We strongly encourage you to review this guidance and use the federal resources designed to guide vaccine planning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at 207-287-3746.

As always, we thank you for all that you do to keep the children of Maine free from vaccinepreventable disease.