
Montana Immunization Program Newsletter

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Influenza Season Gets an Early Start in Montana

It is not uncommon for Montana to have cases of influenza at this time of year. As you probably know, we are experiencing more than the average number of cases. Since September, DPHHS has received reports of over 30 confirmed cases.

What does this mean for the season?

Most likely we will not know until it is over. Each influenza season is different and somewhat unpredictable.

What can your clinic do?

- **Vaccinate** – Every clinic should have received some VFC influenza vaccine along with any private stock ordered. Continue vaccinating into 2016.
- **Remind/Recall** – Everyone 6 months and older, who do not have contraindications, is eligible to receive the vaccine. Remind or recall those individuals at highest risk.
- **Review** the 2016 Recommendations for Prevention of Influenza, including:
 - No preferential recommendation for LAIV for healthy children aged 2 - 8 years
 - Updated influenza vaccine dosing guide for children aged 6 months – 8 years

The full recommendation can be found at

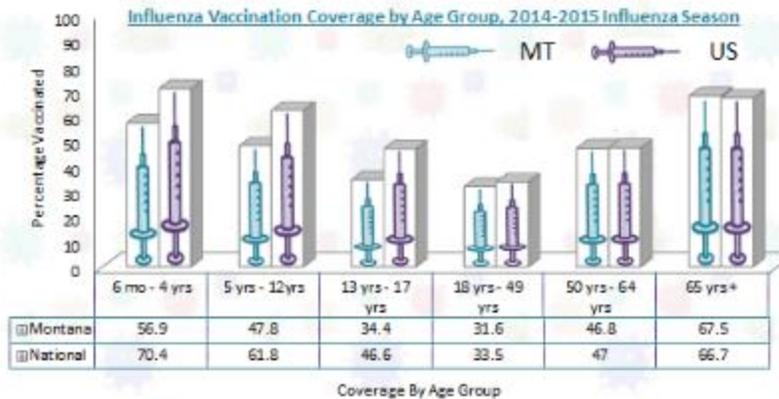
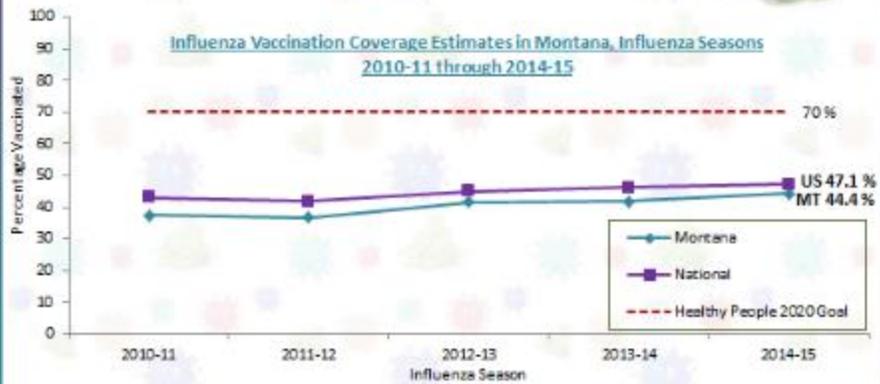
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6430a3.htm>.

Thank you for vaccinating to prevent influenza disease!

If you have any questions, please contact us at 444-5580.



Influenza Vaccination Coverage in Montana



Created By Montana DPHHS, September 2015.

Sources:
 -National Immunization Survey-Flu (NIS-Flu) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2014-15 influenza season, CDC.
 -State, Regional, and National Vaccination Trend Report, CDC.

For this and other infographics developed by DPHHS, visit <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/infographics>



VFC Corner

Monthly VFC Hot Topics Webinars

When: Every other month, last week of the month.

[Updated Hot Topics Schedule](#)

[Archived Presentations](#)

Month	Topic
October	Annual VFC Provider Education Training- Mandatory This session is required for all VFC Managers and Alternates to fulfill <u>the entire</u> Annual VFC Provider Education Requirement. Yes, you read that correctly. No CDC <i>You Call the Shots</i> this year. This webinar (and associated knowledge test) will fulfill your entire VFC education requirement for 2015 and must be completed before re-enrollment at the turn of the calendar year. Attend one of these live presentations and avoid the rush in December. See below for the schedule and access information (also sent in an all-provider email on October 8, 2015).

Tuesday October 27th 12:00 p.m.	Meeting Password: montana https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?MTID=mfae68959403fd70cfefa4d0670b61049 Audio Access code: 572 877 313
Thursday October 29th 7:00 a.m.	Meeting Password: montana https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?MTID=mb780a320f2f3bfd6b331651d521043a2 Audio Access code: 574 671 784
Thursday October 29th 8:00 a.m.	Meeting Password: montana https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?MTID=m8f429dee1be7eefa0567932b921864e6 Audio Access code: 571 771 384

(Archived recording will be available for viewing and credit).

Reminders

VFC Influenza Vaccine

We are continuing to ship VFC Influenza as it becomes available. We have currently shipped 45% of our total influenza vaccine ordered. If you are still waiting on Fluzone 0.5ml for the 3-18 years of age and would like a multi-dose vial in the meantime, please e-mail or call Katie Grady-Selby at 444-1613 or kgrady@mt.gov. If you have any other questions, please call 444-1613.

Borrowing

Vaccine “borrowing” is the temporary transfer of vaccine between public and private stock at a VFC provider facility in order to avoid a missed opportunity to vaccinate. Borrowing VFC vaccine must not prevent a VFC-eligible child from receiving a needed vaccination. VFC providers are required to maintain adequate inventory of public and private vaccine to meet the needs of their patients. Borrowing should not be a routine vaccine management practice and is only allowed under the following circumstances:

- Lack of stock due to vaccine shipment delays
- Vaccine not useable on arrival (e.g., vials broken, temperature issue)
- To use short-dated private stock before it expires (at facilities serving small privately insured populations)

- Accidental use of wrong stock
- VFC seasonal influenza vaccine not yet available or delayed at the beginning of influenza season (any other borrowing of influenza vaccine is prohibited)
- To repay stock when insurance billing reveals that the patient is uninsured or underinsured (FQHC/RHC only) in respect to the vaccine given.

ALL BORROWING MUST BE FULLY DOCUMENTED ON A [BORROWING FORM](#). Borrowing forms must be retained for three years and made available to Immunization Program staff during site visits and by request.

Best Practices to Avoid Borrowing

- Know the VFC eligibility categories you can serve
- Screen thoroughly to accurately determine eligibility at check-in
- Communicate eligibility information to clinicians administering vaccines
- Clearly label private and VFC vaccine stock in your storage units
- Train staff on your VFC eligibility screening process
- Assess vaccine usage and projected demand to ensure sufficient order quantities of private and public stock.

On the Horizon

VFC Annual Re-enrollment

At the turn of each calendar year, all current VFC providers are required to re-enroll in the program. This involves submitting a new site contract in imMTrax and entering your “Provider Population,” which is an estimate for the coming year of your total number of pediatric immunization patients by age and VFC eligibility category, including privately insured patients. This information must be obtained from actual immunization data from the current year. Please be sure that you are documenting eligibility screening throughout the year so that this information is easily obtained for

your re-enrollment.

Questions? Contact Lori Hutchinson or Katie Grady-Selby at hhsiz@mt.gov.



thank
you!

The Montana Immunization Program would like to thank all our partners throughout the state for their hard work and continued efforts in ensuring the updated immunization school rules were successfully implemented.

Thank You!

Pneumococcal Reminder

In addition to the annual influenza shot, **don't forget** to evaluate your senior citizens and younger adults with chronic conditions for recommended pneumococcal vaccination. If pneumococcal vaccination is indicated, the dose can be given at the same time they receive their influenza vaccine.

For more information about pneumococcal vaccine recommendations, click [here](#).

Questions? Contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580.



HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FLU VACCINE?
GET VACCINATED NOW!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

National Influenza Vaccination Week
December 6 - 12, 2015
www.cdc.gov/flu


[National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\)](#): NIVW will be held December 6-12, 2015. This event highlights the importance of continuing influenza vaccination throughout the holiday season and beyond, when we typically see influenza vaccination start to decline. The [NIVW site](#) will be updated as we get closer to the annual observance, so check back regularly for NIVW-related information and resources.

**State of Montana
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[Complete Staff Listing and Contact Information](#)

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