

MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

APRIL 2017



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner



National Infant Immunization Week

IMMUNIZATION.
POWER TO PROTECT.

April 22—29, 2017

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities.

Since 1994, hundreds of communities across the United States have joined together to celebrate the critical role vaccination plays in protecting our children, communities, and public health.

Opportunities for NIIW

NIIW provides an opportunity to:

- Highlight the dangers of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially to infants and young children, and the importance and benefits of childhood immunizations.
- Educate parents and caregivers about the importance of vaccination in protecting their children from birth against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Focus attention on our immunization achievements and celebrate the accomplishments made possible through successful collaboration.
- Step up efforts to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases and thereby giving them a healthy start in life.
- Encourage better communication between parents and health care professionals.
- Remind parents and caregivers they need to make and keep needed immunization appointments.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html>

Vaccines Available

In an effort to reduce the amount of vaccine that is wasted in the State of Maine, we are now posting on the ImmPact homepage a list of vaccines that provider offices have on hand that they cannot use prior to the expiration date.

The list of vaccines available in the state are broken down by county. **Please check the lists prior to placing future orders.** If you can use any of the vaccine listed, please contact Vaccine Management at 1-800-569-0659 and they will help facilitate the transfer.

In order to transfer inventory from one site to another, both sites must have up-to-date temperatures in ImmPact and reconciliation must have been done within the last 30 days.

Announcements:

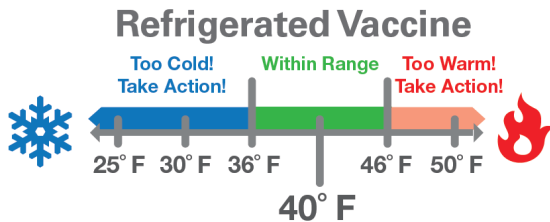
- NEW** ~ [Influenza Vaccines Available](#)
 - 02/09/2017 ~ [Vaccines Available Counties A-K](#)
 - 02/09/2017 ~ [Vaccines Available Counties L-Y](#)
 - 02/02/2017 ~ [MIP February Newsletter](#)
 - NEW** ~ [M.I.P. January Newsletter](#)
 - 01/20/2017 ~ [Reminder - ImmPact User Agreements](#)
- [more announcements](#)

Please contact Vaccine Management at: 1-800-569-0659 and they will help to facilitate the transfer.

If you have vaccine that you are not able to use prior to the expiration date, please call the ImmPact Helpdesk at: 1-800-906-8754 to have the vaccine posted on the website.

Temperature Change

The Federal CDC has adjusted its guidance on the Fahrenheit temperature range for storing refrigerated vaccine. The old range was **35°F - 46°F**; the new range is **36°F - 46°F**.



The Celsius temperature range remains 2°C - 8°C, as stated in all manufacturers' package inserts for routinely recommended refrigerated vaccines. The conversion of 2°C - 8°C equates to 35.6°F - 46.4°F.

Among routinely recommended vaccines, most manufacturers' package inserts note a Fahrenheit temperature range of 36°F - 46°F, while some note a temperature range of 35°F - 46°F. By adjusting CDC's guidance for the Fahrenheit temperature range from 35°F - 46°F to 36°F - 46°F, CDC is ensuring that its recommended Fahrenheit temperature range does not conflict with the package inserts of any routinely recommended vaccines.

All providers should start implementing this change as soon as possible.

For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/communications/2016/faq-for-temp-change.pdf>

New temperature logs reflecting the temperature change can be found under Storage and Handling in the Forms and Updates section of our website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/forms-updates.shtml>

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Eligibility Screening & Documentation

All VFC providers are required to screen each patient receiving state-supplied vaccines for eligibility at **every** immunization visit.

If your site is chosen for a VFC compliance visit, you will be required to demonstrate how your practice screens patients for VFC eligibility.

As a reminder children up through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are considered **VFC eligible**:

- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Does not have health insurance
- Is an American Indian or Alaska Native
- Is underinsured (has health insurance that does not pay for vaccinations)

Children who are privately insured **MUST** be recorded as **not VFC eligible** in the ImmPact system. These children do not qualify for vaccines purchased with VFC funds; however, they do qualify for vaccines purchased with other funds and **can receive vaccine** supplied by the Maine Immunization Program.

Vaccine Replacement Updates

A big CONGRATULATIONS to all of you. Looking at the preliminary numbers, compared to last year at this time, vaccine wastage is down approximately 50%!

A lot of providers have been asking for wastage information between quarterly reports. For step by step instructions on how to look up your wastage in ImmPact please see the Vaccine Replacement Toolkit on page 28. <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/documents/Toolkit-Final-January-25-2017.pdf>. For any additional questions please contact Valerie MacKenzie, Provider Relations Specialist at 207-287-3862.

For more in depth updates and a chance to ask your Replacement Procedure questions, plan on attending the Spring Replacement Procedure webinar. Look for more information regarding the webinar later this month.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

**If you have any questions,
please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775
www.ImmunizeME.org**

