

SHOT TALK

Metro Health Immunization Program Newsletter - January 2020

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Newsletter>



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In This Issue...

New ACIP Recommendations	p.2-3
TVFC Updates & Reminders	p.4-5
IOEP News & Updates	p.6
CE Opportunities	p.7

BREAKING NEWS

As of December 11, 2019, the following vaccine is out of inventory for all Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) providers until Spring 2020:

Hiberix - *Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate)* - Single Dose Vial, 10 Pack (NDC 58160-0818-11-P)

This vaccine will be substituted with:

ActHib - *Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate)* - Single Dose Vial, 5 Pack (NDC 49281-0545-03-P)

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will manually enter replacement orders of ActHib on behalf of TVFC providers. Expect to receive an email from DSHS to those affected by any replacement orders.



ACIP Recommendations Updated at October Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved the following recommendations by majority vote at its October 2019 meeting. These recommendations have been adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director and will become official once published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

- Either Td or Tdap vaccine can be used in the following situations when previously only Td was recommended (**new language italicized**):
 - Decennial booster dose: “To ensure continued protection against tetanus and diphtheria, booster doses of *either Td or Tdap* should be administered every 10 years throughout life.”
 - Tetanus prophylaxis for wound management: “For nonpregnant persons with documentation of previous vaccination with Tdap, *either Td or Tdap* should be used if a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine is indicated.”
 - Catch-up immunization:
 - “Persons aged (7–18 years and ≥ 19 years) who have never been vaccinated against pertussis, tetanus, or diphtheria should receive a series of three tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccines, which includes *at least 1 dose* of Tdap. The preferred schedule is a dose of Tdap, followed by a dose of *either Td or Tdap* at least 4 weeks afterward and another dose of *either Td or Tdap* 6 to 12 months later.
 - Persons aged (7–18 years and ≥ 19 years) who are not fully immunized against tetanus and diphtheria should receive 1 dose of Tdap (preferably the first) in the catch-up series; if additional tetanus toxoid-containing doses are required, *either Td or Tdap* vaccine can be used.”
 - Prevention of neonatal and obstetric tetanus: “If more than one dose of a tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine is needed, *either Td or Tdap* vaccine can be used for those doses.”

New publication titles for immunization schedules:

- *The Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2020*, for ages 18 years or younger.
- *The Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, United States, 2020*, for ages 19 years and older.

The ACIP webpage (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>) is being updated to include the October 2019 recommendations.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

ACIP Updates Adult HPV Vaccination Recommendations

The CDC has published a MMWR providing an update for the ACIP recommendations of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV) for adults. [For more information and to view the updated recommendations, visit the CDC MMWR for HPV.](#)

Providers who are enrolled in the Adult Safety Net (ASN) program must comply with appropriate vaccination schedules, dosages, and contraindications that are established by the ACIP. **Effective immediately, the DSHS Immunization Unit will be adopting the updated ACIP recommendations in the ASN program for all adults aged 19 through 26 years only, male or female.** Below are bullets describing old and updated ACIP recommendations.

Past ACIP Recommendations:

- HPV vaccine is recommended for routine vaccination at age 11 or 12 years. (Vaccination can be started at age 9.)
- ACIP also recommends vaccination for **females aged 13 through 26 years and males aged 13 through 21 years** not adequately vaccinated previously.
- Vaccination is also recommended through age 26 years for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, and immunocompromised persons (including those with HIV infection) not adequately vaccinated previously.

Updated ACIP Recommendations:

- **Children and adults aged 9 through 26 years.** HPV vaccination is routinely recommended at age 11 or 12 years; vaccination can be given starting at age 9 years. Catch-up HPV vaccination is recommended for all persons through age 26 years who are not adequately vaccinated.
- **Adults aged >26 years.** Catch-up HPV vaccination is not recommended for all adults aged >26 years. Instead, shared clinical decision-making regarding HPV vaccination is recommended for some adults aged 27 through 45 years who are not adequately vaccinated. HPV vaccines are not licensed for use in adults aged >45 years.



TVFC Updates and Reminders

Plug Guards

As stated on page 72 of the [2020 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#), plug guards must be installed on power outlets for all storage units storing any TVFC and/or ASN vaccines. Please double-check and verify that all units storing any TVFC/ASN vaccine at your facility are protected and have a plug guard in place. Recently, while conducting TVFC compliance visits, San Antonio Metro Health reviewers have come across storage units that are unprotected by plug guards and vulnerable to accidental power interruptions. There are many different types of plug guards available that are compatible with different storage units and wall outlets. If your site needs plug guards, please contact our team at 210-207-8794.



VIS Dates in EMR

During each office visit, at which a patient is receiving a vaccine, a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) must be provided for patient review prior to vaccine administration. It is important to ensure that the VIS publication date is accurately recorded, whether it be in an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) or a paper chart. It has been noted that some providers have outdated VIS publication dates in their EMR because the dates are automatically generated. This means that even if the most current version of the VIS is given to the patient, it is not being documented correctly in the EMR. Providers who have paper charts should also document the most current VIS publication date for each vaccine given. For updated and current versions of routine and non-routine VIS publication dates, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

ImmTrac2 Screening Process

The first and easiest way to provide high-quality data to ImmTrac2 is to ensure staff is screening each patient served by your clinic and confirming they have a record in ImmTrac2. If a patient does not have a record in ImmTrac2, they should consent into the system at that time. The second way to provide high-quality data is to ensure that all immunization information is transmitting to ImmTrac2. Each provider's office should have at least one staff member assigned to collect consents, create ImmTrac2 profiles, and also check that data is being transmitted from the EMR to ImmTrac2 on a routine basis. Please note that there is also an option to create an ImmTrac2 profile through electronic affirmations. If you would like to know more about this process, please contact Shawn Jimenez at 210-207-8794 or by email at shawn.jimenez@sanantonio.gov.

EVI Forms

When submitting any Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) forms, vaccine management forms, or any other type of documentation to your Responsible Entity (RE), please remember to include your site PIN number! Having your PIN on all documentation will ensure a quicker response and speedier vaccine delivery.

All correspondence includes:

- Temperature logs
- Emails
- Vaccine troubleshooting records
- Data logger reports and certificates of calibrations

Also, please take a moment to review temperature logs **before** submitting them to your RE, ensuring that all readings are in range and accurate. For example, there must be a negative sign recorded if the temperature reading was -10 or below. If there is not a negative sign, it will appear the unit is out of temperature range and will delay your vaccine order.

Vaccine Administration Fees

Effective January 1, 2020, TVFC providers who choose to bill a vaccine administration fee for non-Medicaid and TVFC-eligible children after the date of service, may issue only a single bill to the patient within 90 days of the vaccine administration. This policy does not apply to vaccine administration fees billed to Medicaid for children who meet the Medicaid eligibility criteria for the TVFC program. **Unpaid administration fees may not be sent to collections.** Also, the provider **cannot** refuse to vaccinate an eligible child, whose parents have unpaid vaccine administration fees, at future visits.

New Emergency Vaccine Storage & Handling Plan

All TVFC enrolled sites are required to have an Emergency Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan in place. The TVFC [Vaccine Management Plan and the Emergency Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Checklist \(stock no. E11-14498\)](#) contains comprehensive information on best practices and the most current information about the storage and handling of vaccines. This template is a valuable tool that assists in the development of an emergency plan, but use of the tool is not required. If an enrolled site chooses not to use the template, they are required to develop and implement their own routine and emergency vaccine management plans, **which must include all the information on the template provided by the TVFC program.**

Having an Emergency Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan in place is necessary for all sites, helps the site be prepared for an emergency, and helps prevent the unnecessary loss of vaccine. This plan is extremely important, especially when new staff come into a clinic. All clinic staff should be familiar with emergency practices and procedures, which must include instructions for accessing the vaccine storage units when the building is closed.

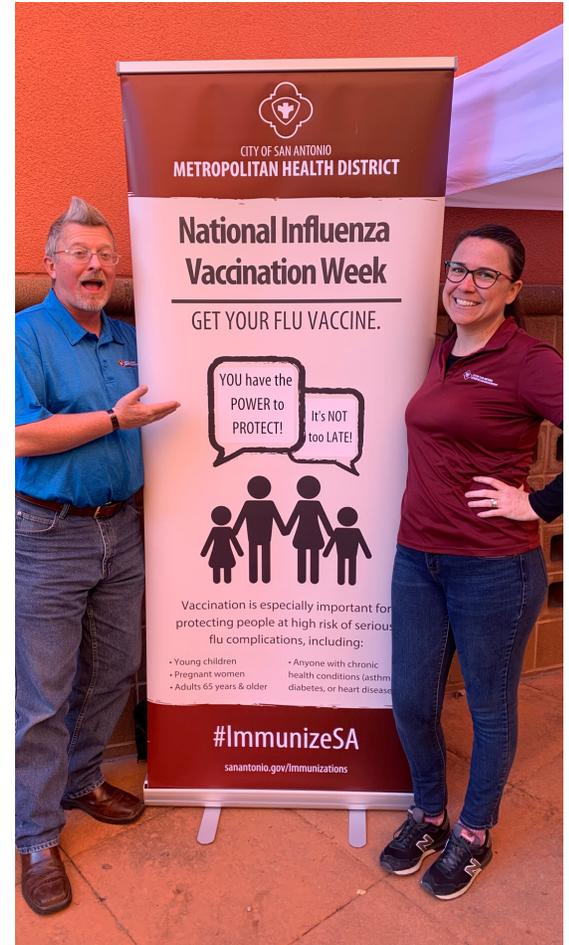
If you have any questions, please contact our TVFC/ASN team at sanantoniotvfcasn@sanantonio.gov or call Brittani Ray at (210) 207-2861.

Metro Health's Immunization Program: Outreach, Education, and Partnerships Update

In 2005, CDC established National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) as a way to highlight the importance of "continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond". December 1-7 marked 2019 as the 14th anniversary of this initiative. NIVW has strategically been placed at the beginning of December because "previous flu coverage data has shown that few people get vaccinated against influenza after the end of November".

Metro Health's Immunization Outreach, Education, and Partnership (IOEP) team marked NIVW by conducting activities to highlight the importance of the influenza vaccine. On December 2, IOEP partnered with the Metro Health STD/HIV Prevention Program to provide influenza vaccines at the San Antonio Central Library. IOEP also created special NIVW pop-up banners, which were featured at clinical events, during a live TV broadcast, and at Metro Health's Eastside Immunization Clinic. For the largest activity of NIVW, IOEP partnered with Metro Health's Immunization Information Systems team to send out a flu reminder postcard to more than 4,500 Metro Health patients. For more information about NIVW click here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/nivw/about.htm>



In February 2019, the Immunize San Antonio (IZSA) Coalition reconvened its monthly meetings with a broad collection of partners and stakeholders. This year has passed quickly and we are now approaching one year since reconvening the IZSA Coalition. Over the last year, IZSA has initiated several projects to increase immunization awareness and access in Bexar County spearheaded by two workgroups. The Clinic Workgroup partnered with the American Cancer Society's HPV Task Force to develop a provider survey. This survey will gather data from Bexar County medical providers about vaccine administration and barriers to providing immunizations. The Education Workgroup has drafted a Vaccine Resource Guide for parents, which will be distributed throughout local schools. This guide aims to connect parents with reliable information and resources to help them feel fully informed about vaccines.

The next IZSA meeting will be held on February 5, 2020, from 1-2:30 pm at the Diabetes Institute Boardroom located at 701 S. Zarzamora, 78207. If you would like more information about IZSA or to be added to the IZSA mailing list, please contact Sarah Williams at 210-207-6917 or by email at sarah.williams@sanantonio.gov.

CE Opportunities and Resources

2019 Pink Book Webinar Series: This 2019 [online series of 15 webinars](#), which concluded on September 25, 2019, provides an overview of vaccination principles, general recommendations, immunization strategies, specific information about vaccine-preventable diseases, and the vaccines that prevent them. Each webinar explored a chapter from the 13th extended edition of the Pink Book. The webinars can be viewed online at the [Pink Book webinar web page](#). Continuing Education (CE) credit is available for each webinar.

Vaccine Administration e-Learn: An [e-Learn on vaccine administration](#) is now available. Proper vaccine administration is critical for ensuring that vaccines are both safe and effective. Vaccine administration errors happen more often than you might think. Of the average 36,000 reports received annually by the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System or VAERS](#), about 1,500 are directly related to an administration error. Some of the most common vaccine administration errors include:

- Not following the recommended immunization schedule
- Administering improperly stored or expired vaccine and/or diluent
- Administering the wrong vaccine—confusing look-alike or sound-alike vaccines such as DTaP/Tdap or administering products outside age indications

The e-Learn is a free, interactive, online educational program that serves as a useful introductory course or a great refresher on vaccine administration. The self-paced e-Learn provides comprehensive training, using videos, job aids, and other resources to accommodate a variety of learning styles, and offers a certificate of completion and/or CE for those that complete the training. For more information, please contact nipinfo@cdc.gov.

Pediatricians Answer Parents' HPV Vaccine Questions in New "Can I Ask You a Question" Videos: CDC's new "Can I Ask You a Question" video series for parents is now available for viewing. In the series, real pediatricians use their expertise to answer parents' questions about the HPV vaccine and why it's important for preventing cancer. The videos feature pediatricians answering friends' questions about the HPV vaccine in a casual setting and reflect some of the most common questions parents have about the HPV vaccine. You can find all the videos on the [CDC website](#) and on [YouTube](#). There is also a [Spanish version](#) on YouTube.

"Keys to Storing and Handling Your Vaccine Supply" Video: Two of the most important safeguards for the nation's vaccine supply are proper vaccine storage and handling. An updated [web-on-demand video](#), titled "Keys to Storing and Handling Your Vaccine Supply," is designed to decrease vaccine storage and handling errors by demonstrating recommended best practices and addressing frequently asked questions. CE credit is available.

Texas DSHS CE Opportunities: DSHS offers a wide range of CE courses available online for free with a variety of topics, as well as several different accreditation sources. For a full listing, please visit <https://www.txhealthsteps.com/courses>.

Effective January 2, 2020

NEW APPOINTMENT HOURS

Monday - Friday:
8am - 12pm Appointment ONLY
1pm - 3pm Walk-Ins ONLY

Eastside Clinic

210 N. Mel Waiters Way
(formerly 210 N. Rio Grande)
San Antonio, TX 78202



We accept Medicaid, Community First Health Plan CHIP, and Superior Health Plan CHIP. Please call to find out if we accept another type of insurance.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

**For appointments
or questions,
please call:
(210) 207-8894**