

COVID-19 vaccination recommendations for under 5

On June 18, CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months and older. The schedule includes Moderna as a 2-dose primary series (0.25 mL, 25 mcg) for children 6 months-5 years and Pfizer as a 3-dose primary series (0.2 mL, 3 mcg) for children 6 months-4 years. An additional Moderna primary series dose for those who are immunocompromised is also recommended. COVID-19 can cause severe disease and death among children, including those without underlying medical conditions. Both vaccines are safe and provide protection against severe disease and hospitalization. For detailed information refer to the EUA factsheets at [COVID-19 Vaccines \(www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines\)](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines). CDC has updated their [Interim Clinical Consideration for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines \(www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html) along with a new infants and young children section and an At-A-Glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule.

New MMR product

After FDA approved the license for a second MMR product, Priorix, by GlaxoSmithKline, ACIP voted to recommend that this product can be used and interchanged with MMR II (Merck). This is a live, attenuated MMR product and is indicated for measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination. It has shown to be safe and elicits a non-inferior immune response like the other MMR product. It is reconstituted just before administration and is given by subcutaneous route. More information will come when the recommendations are published by CDC.

New child care data

The 2021-22 [Child Care Immunization Data \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/childcare/\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/childcare/) has been posted. This data allows community leaders, health care providers, child care center staff, and parents to see the immunization and exemption percentages for their child care center. The data shows a troubling drop in the percentage of child care enrollees fully vaccinated with the vaccines required for child care entry since the start of the pandemic, leaving many more children vulnerable to vaccine preventable disease. Consider sending reminders, or calling families into the clinic, earlier this year to avoid a rush later this summer. It is important for child care centers to enforce the immunization requirements and ensure that children have documentation of vaccination or an exemption on file before enrolling to ensure broad protection against vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

MIIC webinar series

Thank you to all who joined us for the MIIC webinar series! We had significant provider involvement and were inspired by the substantial engagement. It's not too late to watch the webinar series and obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Links to the recordings and CEU evaluations can be found at [MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/) under "MIIC Webinar Series".

MDH vaccine protocols

MDH has updated their protocol template with plans to routinely review and update all MDH vaccine protocols. Priority will be given to

COVID-19 vaccine protocols and those with new recommendations published in the MMWR. Non-COVID protocols may take 2-3 weeks to be updated after published recommendations. As a reminder, these are templates and agencies can update their own protocols with guidance and approval from their medical director. Updates to agency protocols do not necessarily need to be made unless recommendations have changed or wanting a more consistent format with the new protocol template.

Monkeypox

For the first time ever, there is a global outbreak of monkeypox, with ongoing community transmission likely occurring in the U.S. Most reported cases have occurred in persons who self-identify as gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men (MSM). MDH encourages providers to review **updated** resources on recognizing, reporting, testing, and treating monkeypox.

- [Monkeypox \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/monkeypox/\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/monkeypox/)
- [CDC: Monkeypox for Health Care Professionals \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/)

Be aware of the classic and atypical presentation of monkeypox. More recent reports suggest increased atypical presentation. Continue to test for other differential as indicated, including chickenpox, herpes, and syphilis. Have MDH phone numbers on hand for reporting suspect cases. Staff are available 24 hours a day at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414. **Call MDH if you suspect monkeypox, even before specimen collection.** Check the swab types in your clinic. Dry polyester or Dacron swabs must be used to collect specimens. Understand specimen submission requirements [Monkeypox Information For Health Professionals \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/monkeypox/hcp.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/monkeypox/hcp.html). Early recognition and testing allow for timely identification of close contacts and public health recommendations to prevent transmission. At this time, most clinicians in the United States and laboratorians not performing the orthopoxvirus generic test to diagnose orthopoxviruses are not advised to receive orthopoxvirus PrEP. For more information refer to [CDC: Monkeypox and Smallpox Vaccine Guidance \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/smallpox-vaccine.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/smallpox-vaccine.html).

Immunization Champion Award

Nominations are open until June 27. Visit [AIM Champion Awards \(www.immunizationmanagers.org/about-aim/awards/champion-awards/\)](https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/about-aim/awards/champion-awards/) for more information and to download the nomination packet. Submit nominations by June 27 via email to Melody Doan at MDH at melody.doan.contractor@state.mn.us.

NAIIS 2022 Immunization Excellence Awards call for nominations

The National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) is soliciting nominations for awardees for the Immunization Excellence Awards. The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improving vaccination access and delivery, health equity, and vaccine confidence within their communities during 2021-22. Learn more about the awards and submit nominations by July 15, 2022, to [2022 Nomination Form NAIIS \(https://fs29.formsite.com/ul8uzs/NAIIS Awards2022/\)](https://fs29.formsite.com/ul8uzs/NAIIS Awards2022/).