

Kansas Immunization Program Updates

IKC May 1st Meeting

KIP operations during COVID Response

- 2 FTE answering the Epi Hotline at Curtis Bldg.
- Epidemiology staff working 100% on COVID response; remotely and at Curtis Bldg.
- 3 of 6 Regional Immunization Consultants working 80% on COVID response remotely.
- Phil is working 100% on COVID response - primary duty now is in Department of Corrections and part of the Incident Command Team, has also worked a lot on the resource development in the early weeks of the response.
- Management staff working with CDC and other State Programs to prepare for a COVID vaccine and the mass distribution of vaccine. Also, wrapping up the CDC Immunization grant application and progress report. Continue to ensure work continues in the Immunization Program.
- Remaining staff working remotely on Immunization Program with occasion tasks related specific to COVID response.

Minimum Requirements for VFC providers

March 23rd Special Alert - Interim Guidance for VFC Providers During COVID-19 Pandemic

At this time all in-person VFC Site Visits, IQIP Visits, and KSWebIZ trainings have been suspended, but the Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) will continue to support VFC providers through the KSWebIZ Helpdesk, Regional Immunization Consultants, and the Consultant On-Call. We understand that many of you are actively engaged with COVID-19 response.

Below you will find minimal VFC requirements that must be met for compliance with the VFC Program.

Minimal VFC Storage and Handling Requirements

- Data loggers must be uploaded into KSWebIZ monthly between the 1st and 7th of the month.
- Providers should continue to document vaccine storage unit temperatures when open and immediately report any temperature excursions or out of range temperatures as discovered.

Public Vaccine Ordering

- Assess hours of operation. Vaccine deliveries can take 2-3 weeks and may not be able to be canceled once placed. Please alert the KIP immediately if your clinic hours are changing and you have recently placed a vaccine order.
- Prior to ordering public vaccine all KIP ordering requirements should be met including:
 - Electronic acceptance of vaccine received in KSWebIZ
 - Adjustments of any wasted vaccine
 - Return of any expired vaccine
 - Physical count of vaccine inventory
 - Completion of reconciliation in KSWebIZ
 - Uploading data loggers into KSWebIZ

Need for Clinic Closure

If your clinic must close temporarily, clinics should:

- Contact your Regional Immunization Consultant and share plans for clinic closure.
- Mark vaccine storage units with "do not use" signs.
- Ensure that data loggers remain with public vaccine at all times during clinic closure.
- Upon clinic reopening, upload your data loggers to KSWebIZ and alert your Regional Immunization Consultant of clinic reopening.

- Assess for any out of range temperatures. If a temperature excursion is found, complete the KIP Temperature Excursion Worksheet and temperature excursion process.

Encouraging Providers to Continue Vaccinating

April 9th Special Alert - Interim Guidance for Maintaining Childhood Immunization During COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly and continues to affect communities across the United States differently. Some of the strategies used to slow the spread of disease in communities include postponing or cancelling non-urgent elective procedures and using telemedicine instead of face-to-face encounters for routine medical visits. Ensuring the delivery of newborn and well-child care, including childhood immunization, requires different strategies.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided a list of strategies that can assist healthcare providers in communities affected by COVID-19.

Examples of the strategies include:

- Scheduling well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon
- Separating patients spatially, such as by placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the clinic or another location from patients with well visits.
- Collaborating with providers in the community to identify separate locations for holding well visits for children.

Because of personal, practice, or community circumstances related to COVID-19, some providers may not be able to provide well child visits, including provision of immunizations, for all patients in their practice. If a practice can provide only limited well child visits, healthcare providers are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible. CDC is monitoring the situation and will continue to provide guidance.

Review Vaccine Order Handout: See separate handout. April ordering data is down.

2020 Conference Cancellation

April 14th Special Alert - 2020 Annual Immunization Conference Canceled

After a lot of thought and consideration, the Kansas Immunization Program has decided to cancel the 2020 Immunization Conference. We realize that people are working hard on the COVID-19 response and it will be difficult for people to attend the conference even if routine activities have resumed across the state. For local health departments that receive Immunization Action Plan (IAP) funding to assist with conference attendance, those funds can be used for other needs, in particular they can be diverted to the COVID-19 response if there is a need.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to seeing everyone next year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Allison Alejos.