

Immunization Advisory Committee

Date: 10/27/2023
Location and Time: 9 a.m.
Present: VDH – Patsy Kelso, AHS – Monica Ogelby, AoE – Heather Bouchey, School Nurse – Deb Doyon, School Nurse – Chris Yates, Christine Payne, MD, Ashley Miller, MD, Mark Levine, MD, Meredith Plumpton, Brendan Atwood
Absent:
Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker: Patsy Kelso, and Sarah Gregorek

Meeting Objectives: Annual meeting		
Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and Introductions	Charge of the committee: Review and make recommendations regarding the State’s immunization schedule for attendance in schools and childcare facilities.	
Appoint a New Chair	Dan French was the last chair, and he is no longer Secretary of Education Nomination: Monica Ogelby offered to be the Chair Patsy put forward the motion and Chris Yates 2 nd the motion. The committee voted unanimously to nominate Monica as chair.	
Review and make recommendations regarding the State’s immunization schedule for attendance in schools and	Patsy provided links to the Department of Health’s web site for the following IZ schedules: https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ID_IZ_CCP_vt_schedule_kids.pdf https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/11/ID_IZ_CCP_cc_imm_schedule.pdf https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/surveillance-reporting-topic/vaccination-coverage https://www.healthvermont.gov/vermont-covid-19-and-flu-vaccination-data The last link, COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination data will be updated weekly. Any comments about the current schedule for school entry?	Meredith will share HPV trend data with the committee.

<p>childcare facilities.</p>	<p>Dr. Miller – it makes a huge difference for the immunization schedule for Schools; if it’s required, parents will do it. What we recommend has a lot of weight. HPV vaccine is one that Dr. Miller would like to see on the schedule. VDH is making some efforts to address HPV hesitancy to increase uptake. The HPV vaccination is on the IZ scheduled for schools in DC, RI, Hawaii, and Virginia.</p> <p>Dr. Levine mentioned that the Department has been working on HPV for a number of years. Information about the trends for uptake over time would be helpful to get a sense of where it started and where we are and compare with other states that don’t require it and then look at strategies to see what works the best.</p> <p>Patsy - At this time, I don’t think we will include any additional immunizations on the schedule.</p>	
<p>Clinicians’ insight on the rollout of nirsevimab</p>	<p>What are you hearing, any challenges with the supply? There is currently 1300 doses in Vermont and the CDC is expecting the shortage to last the entire season.</p> <p>We are redistributing to ensure every practice that sees young kids has some doses plus we have some at each District Office.</p> <p>Heather Bouchey – what is nirsevimab? Patsy, it’s a monoclonal antibody that protects the very young against RSV. Authorized for kids up to 19 months old.</p> <p>Dr. Miller - Feel lucky to work in Vermont and get access to this vax for free. We have a number of parents asking for this for their child and will start to administer it next week. There is confusion about dosing but the communication was great from the state.</p> <p>There are three groups recommended for products that protect against RSV: Kids up to 19 months old Pregnant individuals Two RSV vax options for people over 60 years old.</p>	

	<p>Birthing hospitals - what are we doing about bundled payment and the high cost of nirsevimab?</p> <p>We are enrolling hospitals to send them the product from VDH, they don't have to worry about the cost, so far, we have 5 hospitals who signed up. We will give it to everyone who is authorized once we have a larger supply.</p> <p>Heather Bouchey – Is the vax available only for younger children, not school age? There was a large volume of children who got RSV last year.</p> <p>Infants get sicker with RSV and there isn't any product for school age children. Patsy - Becca Bell and UVM are not yet seeing kids in the peds ICU with RSV.</p>	
<p>Share any challenges with the fall COVID-19 vaccine roll out</p>	<p>Dr. Miller – challenge During the School based flu clinics, they wanted to do the COVID vax at the same time but didn't have the supply so we need to do a 2nd clinic in November which causes a huge staffing issue. Kids who don't get vaccinated with the pediatrician get their vax through the school clinics.</p> <p>Dr. Payne – It is nice to have the flu shot early, more people are interested in getting it. What is the situation with the 65+ COVID vax, is the state involved with purchasing that?</p> <p>Meredith We cannot serve adults 65+ because Medicare does not pay into the Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Program (VVPP). Vaccine Financing Vermont Department of Health (healthvermont.gov) and Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Program (vtvaccine.org)</p> <p>Many providers are not privately purchasing COVID vaccine for their patients (concerns over expense and potential wastage), so the only option for their patients is to go to a pharmacy.</p> <p>Monica O – Met with staff from Sanders, Welch and Balint's office and this was a topic of conversation - it's a national issue, causing barriers and the cost is high. She will continue to communicate with them about this issue. There may be some innovation with CMS in a few years.</p>	

	<p>Dr. Miller – Vax ordering system is hard to use stating that they are over ordering. In August it’s a problem when we get a lower amount because of college kids coming in for their doses.</p> <p>Meredith will look into how this is decided. The calculator that is provided is used by physicians but then the amount they get is less. Dr. Miller will send the emails she’s received about this issue.</p> <p>Monica: When will the next meeting get scheduled? At the request of the commissioner at least once per year. Sarah will connect with the chair to coordinate. Let us know if there are specific agenda items for next year.</p>	
Public input	No one from the public joined the meeting.	