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DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov
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COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 65 *Updated Bivalent COVID-19 Boosters*

Key Points and Recommendations:

- Recommend that all persons 6 months of age or older complete COVID-19 primary series and booster vaccination (when eligible).
 - COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time (i.e., same day and during same visit) with other routinely recommended vaccines, including the influenza vaccine.
- Updated bivalent booster vaccines have been authorized and recommended by the FDA and CDC, respectively, for use in persons 12 years of age or older (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 18 years of age or older (Moderna) who have completed COVID-19 primary series vaccination.
 - Bivalent booster vaccines contain spike protein mRNA for the original (ancestral) and Omicron BA.4/BA.5 SARS-CoV-2 strains.
 - All persons 12 years of age or older who have completed at least a COVID-19 vaccine primary series should receive a single bivalent vaccine booster (including persons who received any monovalent boosters after primary series vaccination).
 - Bivalent vaccine can only be used for booster doses and NOT primary series vaccination.
 - CDC recommends the updated bivalent vaccine boosters be administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series (for people who have not received any prior booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.
 - NH DPHS suggests waiting at least 3 months after prior vaccination or SARs-CoV-2 infection before administering a bivalent vaccine booster to maximize immune protection and minimize side effects, but decision should be based on a person's COVID-19 risk and immunocompromised status.
 - Bivalent boosters have shown superior immunogenicity against Omicron variants with higher neutralizing antibody titers and likely broader protection against future variants. No new safety concerns or serious side effects have been identified with bivalent vaccines.
 - Review CDC's updated [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).
 - Vaccine schedules are different for persons who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) and for persons who are [NOT immunocompromised](#).
 - Review FDA's new Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers for the updated [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#) bivalent vaccine boosters.
 - Do NOT dilute the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna bivalent booster vials prior to use.
 - Use the FDA's updated Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers for the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#) bivalent vaccine boosters.

- Original monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer able to be used as booster doses in persons 12 years of age or older.
 - Monovalent vaccines should continue to be used for primary series vaccination and booster vaccination in children 5-11 years of age who qualify.
 - Bivalent vaccine boosters are expected to be extended to younger age groups in the coming weeks.
- Bivalent booster vaccine locations can now be searched on [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).
- Consider administering Evusheld every 6 months to persons who are moderately or severely immunocompromised to supplement vaccine protection.
- CDC will conduct a provider webinar on **Tuesday, 9/13** from **2:00 – 3:00 pm** on “*Recommendations for Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Doses in People Ages 12 Years and Older*” which can be accessed at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo_091322.asp.
- Join our monthly NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) healthcare provider webinar for further updates on bivalent COVID-19 boosters on **Thursday, 9/8** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
 - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/94059287404>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 940 5928 7404
 - Password: 353809
- [Register here](#) for a five-part Project ECHO webinar series focused on ***Key Strategies to Promote Childhood Vaccination*** for COVID-19, which will be hosted by Dartmouth Health in collaboration with the NH DPHS (see attached flyer). **The first webinar in the series is Wednesday, 9/7 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm.**

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachment(s):

Project ECHO series flyer



An Ounce of Prevention: Key Strategies to Promote Childhood Vaccination

Course Description

With new COVID-19 variants emerging and a winter surge expected, vaccination of people of all ages is critical to protect the health of our communities. As of mid-July, only 22.7% of children 5-11 years old and 44.1% of teens 12-19 in New Hampshire are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 according to NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In addition, dips in rates of vaccination against other serious childhood illnesses may risk resurgence of other diseases. This series will examine the importance, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 and other vaccines in protecting individuals and communities; discuss effective communication strategies to increase vaccine uptake; and identify evidence-based COVID-19 vaccine resources and best practice information to support increased vaccination. The series is offered by Dartmouth Health in collaboration with NH DHHS.

Who Should Attend

All persons in a position to influence vaccine uptake in the community including: Healthcare provider teams, School health nurses, Pharmacists, Community health personnel (CHWs, VNA, Public health workers, etc), Community influencers (childcare providers, faith leaders, town officials, others), Other concerned citizens

Schedule

Sessions will meet virtually 12-1 pm, every other Wed. beginning Sept 7th	
September 7 th	Vaccine facts: current perspectives on actions, safety and effectiveness
Septembers 21 st	Effective communications to motivate increased vaccine uptake
October 5 th	Common misinformation and reality: successfully addressing myths.
October 19 th	Health equity and social vulnerabilities
November 2 nd	Open topic, to be based on issues arising during the Series

Questions?

Email: ECHO@hitchcock.org

Website:

<https://go.d-h.org/project-echo>

Registration Information

[Click here](#) to register

Sessions are free of charge

CME/CNE information available at course website

What is Project ECHO?

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a telementoring model. Virtual technology is used to support case-based learning and provide education. This will assist participants to care for more people, right where they live.

Benefits

- Participants learn from experts.
- Participants learn from each other.
- Experts learn from participants as best practices emerge.

Moving Knowledge, Not People

