March 21, 2022

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the immunizations listserv update. These updates will continue to come out on Monday afternoons at 4 p.m. throughout 2022 unless otherwise noted. If you have suggestions for the update, please reach out to Shelby Ostrom at [shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org](mailto:shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org).

With the pandemic winding down, I will be continuing to experiment with new formats for the newsletter. Please let me know what formats you like best.

**VACCINE UPDATES**

***Research Suggests That TB Vaccine Could Treat Type 1 Diabetes***

Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) is in the early stages of research to determine if the current tuberculosis vaccine could treat type 1 diabetes in children. According to the report, most children do not receive a TB vaccine because it is no longer common in the United States. However, the report suggests that the TB vaccine calms the immune system and benefits those with autoimmune diseases, like diabetes. [You can read the full article here.](https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/could-a-100-year-old-vaccine-treat-type-1-diabetes-mgh-researchers-are-working-to-find-out/ar-AAVjyQ5?ocid=BingNewsSearch)

***HHS Requests Comments for Vaccines National Strategic Plan***

The HHS requests public comments and suggestions for the new Vaccines Federal Implementation Plan, which is a companion document to the Vaccines National Strategic Plan. This implementation plan is a compilation of federal vaccination activities that advance those goals of the strategic [plan. You can submit public comments until March 29, 2022, at 5 p.m. EST.](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/03/02/2022-04327/meeting-of-the-vaccines-federal-implementation-plan)

***Adolescent Immunization Week – April 4-8, 2022***

Unity Consortium will be hosting an Adolescent Immunization Action Week during the first week of April. This week is to urge providers to encourage parents to immunize their adolescents to receive recommended vaccinations. [You can download and view the toolkit here.](https://www.unity4teenvax.org/aiaw22/)

**STATE UPDATES**

***KDHE Vaccine Ordering Site***

KDHE has opened the new vaccine ordering system on March 16 for orders this week. It is encouraged that you order your vaccine early this week to work out any kinks with the system. Questions about vaccine ordering can be sent to [kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov).

Here’s a few things to keep in mind about the site:

* Link to bookmark: <https://kdhevaccineordering.myshopify.com/>
* Ordering deadlines will remain the same (5 p.m. on Wednesdays)
* Please order VIALS rather than doses. If you order additional supplies, please select the correct number of items. (If you order 1 wipe you will receive 1 wipe rather than a box of them.)
* You will need to set up an account of the site using your provider number, please have that handy for your first order.
* KHDE will be hosting office hours until Wednesday. [You can view that schedule here.](https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/450/March-17--23-Vaccine-Ordering-Website-Training-Schedule-PDF-?bidId=)

***KALHD White Paper***

KALHD is pleased to release the white paper, *Building Vaccine Confidence in Kansas.* This paper provides recommendations for health departments on building vaccine confidence and understanding vaccine hesitancy. Along with the paper, KALHD has released an accompanying resource guide for health departments to use with resources on completing the recommendations. [You can view both documents on KALHD’s website here.](http://www.kalhd.org/vaccination-resources-for-health-departments.)

***Immunize Kansas Coalition Releases* Get Caught Up Campaign**

KALHD partner, the Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC), released resources and documents for their *Get Caught Up* campaign in partnership with K-State Research and Extension. This campaign is focused on increasing routine immunizations that were missed during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can view resources here: <https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/get-caught-up.asp>

***Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics Webinar***

KALHD is co-hosting a webinar about building vaccine confidence with the Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) on April 21st. More information about the webinar is included below:

*Join us on April 21 for a webinar on how to communicate with vaccine-hesitant families. Presented by Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Immunize Kansas Coalition; Kansas Association of Local Health Departments; Kansas Academy of Family Physicians; and Kansas Hospital Association.*

 Thursday, April 21

12 to 1 p.m. CST

*Free CME available.*

[**Register Here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdOmorTwvHNJQdCIJJ6lQbTRDm0W3vBSe)

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***ACIP Recommendations Updated***

The ACIP has updated its website to reflect current COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. This new recommendation includes the use of a Moderna vaccine for those under 18 years old. [You can view the updates here.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_11_8-DM78220&ACSTrackingLabel=ACIP%3A%20Vaccine%20Recommendation%20Updates%20-%203%2F18%2F2022&deliveryName=USCDC_11_8-DM78220)

***Vaccine Manufacturers Submit 4th Dose Approval to FDA***

[Moderna and Pfizer (BioNTech) have submitted a new request to the FDA for approval of a 4th booster dose.](https://www.al.com/news/2022/03/a-possible-4th-covid-19-vaccine-shot-what-you-need-to-know.html) While Moderna has submitted the request for all adults, Pfizer (BioNTech) have submitted the request for seniors 65+ only. Last week, Pfizer CEO told news outlets that he predicted that Americans would require a 4th booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Time will tell if the FDA approves all companies requests.

***COVID-19 Vaccine for Under 5***

[After the delay of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5,](https://edition.cnn.com/2022/03/19/health/covid-19-youngest-children-vaccine/index.html) Moderna has been continuing trials for a similar vaccination, which they expect to ask for FDA approval sometime this year. Pfizer is continuing testing of the under 5 vaccines.

***Early Study Indicates Other Vaccines Can Help Prevent COVID-19***

[A study published in March 2022 indicated that the polio and TB vaccines could prevent COVID-19](https://www.news-medical.net/news/20220321/Study-links-the-usage-of-oral-polio-vaccines-with-lower-incidence-of-COVID-19.aspx). More study of the vaccines will be necessary to determine a correlation.

**RESOURCES**

[Achieving Health Equity](https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306691) – American Public Health Association

[Increasing Vaccination, A Behavioral Science Approach](http://advanced-hindsight.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Increasing_Vaccination_CAH.pdf) – Duke University

[COVID-19 Public Education Campaign Landing Page](https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/) – Health and Human Services

[Clinical Conversations Training Program](https://nnlm.gov/guides/clinical-conversations-training-program) – National Library of Medicine

[Healthcare Provider Toolkit](https://www.voicesforvaccines.org/toolkits/healthcare-provider-toolkit/) – Voices for Vaccines

**EVENTS**

Understanding and Responding Effectively to Vaccine Hesitancy

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 2-3 p.m. CST

[Register Here](https://vaccinateindiana.clickmeeting.com/understanding-and-responding-effectively-to-vaccine-hesitancy/register?_ga=2.241723394.1427310867.1645110144-1992495841.1635166407)

**RECORDINGS**

[Masks, Vaccines, Testing: Staying Prepared for COVID-19 in Your Community](https://vaccineequitycooperative.org/resource/masks-vaccines-and-testing-recording/) – Vaccine Equity Cooperative

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE OF THE WEEK**

This week, we will be talking about Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is often called Consumption or shortened to TB. Children no longer receive TB vaccinations in the United States, so many people forget it is still a disease that can be prevented by a vaccination.

*What is It?*

TB is caused by a bacterium that is spread through the air and on surfaces such as toilets and toothbrushes. Like Mono, you can acquire the bacteria through sharing toothbrushes or sharing food. When an infected person breathes in the TB bacteria, it usually settles in the lungs and begins to grow and move to other organs including the kidneys, spine, or brain. TB is only infectious when it is in the lungs or throat. Once it moves into other parts of the body, it is no longer infectious. Most who get TB have latent infections, but it can become infectious if the bacteria grow into TB disease.

*Latent Infection*

TB bacteria can live in an infected person’s body without making someone sick. Typically, in latent infections, when someone breathes in the bacteria, the body can fight it off. Like Chickenpox, the bacteria will continue to remain in the body and the individual can develop symptoms later. However, all infected individuals (latent or otherwise) will test positive for TB using a skin or blood tests.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/video/TB-course-video-CDC.mp4>

*History*

TB was first recorded in the Middle Ages as scrofula, which is a disease that affects cervical lymph nodes. TB was also known as “the King’s Evil” in France and England, and it was believed that a royal touch could heal the disease. The disease continued to spread throughout the world as Robert Koch isolated the bacteria and called it “Koch Bacillus”. Further treatments, including testing and vaccination, were developed through Koch’s research.

*Diagnosis and Symptoms*

TB has general flu like symptoms. However, it also includes pain in chest and coughing up blood with severe weight loss. You can only spread TB to others when you have an active infection. For diagnosis purposes, there are two tests to determine TB in people. TB skin tests work by injecting fluid into the skin that detects the bacteria in the body. The fluid will produce a reaction on the arm with those with the bacteria. TB blood tests work in a similar way but indicate TB bacteria in the blood.

*Treatment*

Because latent infections of TB are common, it is up to individual and their doctor to determine a treatment plan. For most latent infections, treatment is not necessary. For TB disease, there are two courses of treatment that include antibiotics and anti-tuberculosis drugs. [You can view the full list here](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/treatment/tbdisease.htm).

*Vaccination*

In 1921, the first TB vaccine was given to a human subject by French scientists Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin. The vaccine was an oral vaccine, often called the BCG after Calmette and Guerin’s names. The BCG was developed out of a bacterium that causes disease in cows.

*Impact and Vaccination Rates*

The TB vaccine was endorsed by the League of Nations in 1928. The vaccine began to be used as an effective prevention tool for TB in 1927 and is still the most common delivery of the vaccine. The BCG is routinely given to children worldwide, however, the TB vaccine is not routinely used in the United States. It is important to note that the BCG does not prevent from primary TB infection but prevents severe symptoms.

*Effectiveness and the United States*

As you know, the ACIP determines the vaccine schedule for children in the United States. The BCG is not considered an effective measure against TB prevention, as it typically works for children with active infections. Due to this, and the lack of major outbreaks in the United States, the ACIP has chosen to forgo recommendations for the TB vaccine. However, researchers are continuing to work to develop a more effective TB vaccine here in the United States and throughout the world.

*Personal Connection from Your Neighborhood Millennial*

If I’m being honest, this is probably my favorite vaccination story to date. [After I graduated high school, a foreign exchange student came to school with an active TB infection.](https://fox4kc.com/news/olathe-northwest-high-school-student-in-isolation-during-treatment-for-active-tb/) Over 315 students and teachers had to be tested for a disease that many had never even heard of. Thankfully, only 28 students and teachers tested positive for TB and the majority had latent infections. I was thankful to have graduated but knew many students who now carry TB.

*What We Can Learn*

There is a lot we can learn about vaccine effectiveness from TB. For instance, the vaccine is not currently endorsed by the ACIP so most children in the United States are still at risk for developing TB. However, the ACIP does work hard to only promote vaccines that are effective and promote a healthy life. We can see this trend in both TB and with the Pfizer BioNTech under 5 COVID-19 vaccine.

Sources and Further Reading:

<https://fox4kc.com/news/olathe-northwest-high-school-student-in-isolation-during-treatment-for-active-tb/>

<https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/study-helps-explain-tuberculosis-vaccines-ineffective/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5432783/>

<https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/blog/july-18-90-years-tuberculosis-vaccination>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/prevention/bcg.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/treatment/tbdisease.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/tbinfectiondisease.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/howtbspreads.htm>