April 18, 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).

***KALHD Website Updates***

I am continuing to update the vaccine resource pages on the KALHD website. I included a resource repository on the member page at [www.kalhd.org/vaccination-resources-for-health-departments](http://www.kalhd.org/vaccination-resources-for-health-departments). I encourage you to check out the resources if you need information about vaccines to share with the community.

**GENERAL VACCINE UPDATES**

***National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)***

In partnership with various organizations, the CDC is hosting the National Infant Immunization Week from April 24-30, 2022, to promote the importance of vaccinations for infants. The COVID-19 pandemic has decreased routine immunization rates on a national level, and here in the state. I encourage you to get involved with the resources and events below.

Education Module: Vaccines for My Baby During Pregnancy (provided by the Immunize Kansas Coalition)

[Complete the Module Here](https://rise.articulate.com/share/Oe0-LREZxPw5bb9pwAe_ohzHqtiR2v_q#/)

[NIIW Digital Media Toolkit](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/web-etools/digital-toolkit.html) (provided by the CDC)

[Talking to Parents About Vaccines for Infants Handout](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/downloads/talk-infants-508.pdf)

***Hep B Awareness Day is April 30***

Coinciding with NIIW, the Hepatitis B Foundation is hosting a Hep B Awareness Day on Saturday, April 30. As noted by the Hepatitis B Foundation, there has only been a 25% uptake in Hep B vaccination in the United States, making people vulnerable to the disease. This day encourages providers and the public to talk about Hep B Vaccines and encourage vaccination. I encourage you to get involved with the resources and events below.

Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination and Recommendations: Updates and Policy Impacts

Monday, April 25 (Virtual)

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Register Here](https://nastad.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpc-mhqjwqEtGLulv476fvH6tSHwI-P-MJ)

[Hep B Vaccination Federal Recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6715a5.htm) (ACIP/CDC)

[Social Media Toolkit](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I4HbG5cFuaYYXuzreUfDy6vdSX4WPX4a) (provided by the Hepatitis B Foundation)

***The Meningococcal Vaccine Might Be Used to Against Gonorrhea***

A recent study published in *The Lancet* indicates that the meningitis vaccine could be used to treat gonorrhea, which is a sexually transmitted infection. The study identified laboratory-confirmed infections from New York City and Philadelphia from 2016 to 2018. The study then further identified a correlation between vaccination and reduced risk of gonorrhea. [You can view the study here.](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(21)00812-4/fulltext)

***Influenza Season Continues***

The Flu season continues for parts of the United States. While Kansas remains in the low transmission rate, surrounding states continue to be at an increased risk. KDHE continues to encourage flu vaccination, COVID-19 vaccination, and surveillance to prevent flu spread. You can view more information and resources below to assist with spreading the word.

[#KansasFightsFlu Campaign Materials](https://sokansas-my.sharepoint.com/personal/melissa_dedonder_kdhe_ks_gov/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fmelissa%5Fdedonder%5Fkdhe%5Fks%5Fgov%2FDocuments%2FKDHE%20Communication%20Toolkits%2FFlu%20Toolkits&ga=1)

[CDC Flu Vaccine Finder Tool](https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/)

[CDC Influenza Provider Information Repository](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/index.htm?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fflu%2Fprofessionals%2Fhealthcareworkers.htm)

**PANDEMIC UPDATES**

***Future of the COVID-19 Pandemic***

[As the pandemic state of COVID-19 is winding down in much of the United States, both the federal government and state governments are looking to long-term solutions to prevent COVID-19 in the future through a permanent vaccine.](https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/06/health/fda-vrbpac-covid-boosters-meeting/index.html) At the VRBPAC meeting last week, the group determined that a new plan of action would be needed to determine the future of the pandemic. In addition, pharmaceutical companies are exploring oral vaccines and variant-specific shots for different areas effected by certain variants.

***Pandemic to Endemic Resources***

As the state transitions into endemic footing for the COVID-19 pandemic, many experts still consider COVID-19 a pandemic issue. For the newsletter this week, I have compiled articles and resources for LHDs on what the transition will look like on a national level and a state level. I will also update these resources on the KALHD website.

[How We Will Know When COVID-19 Has Become Endemic](https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/how-we-will-know-when-covid-19-has-become-endemic) (AMA Journal)

[Managing COVID-19 As an Endemic Virus](https://scdhec.gov/covid19/managing-covid-19-endemic) (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control)

[Transition to Endemicity: Understanding COVID-19](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8461290/)

[Lessons Learned from the A H1N1 Influenza Pandemic](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7550184/)

[H1N1 Influenza vs. COVID-19: Pandemic Comparison](https://www.healthline.com/health/h1n1-vs-covid-19)

[The Future of the Public Health Workforce](https://ks.train.org/ks/course/1102817/)

**NEW RESOURCES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Resource Name | Description |
| Webinar | [The Crucial Role of Health Departments in Reducing the Spread of COVID-19](https://ks.train.org/ks/course/1102925/?activeTab=about) | Health departments have always been leaders in protecting and promoting the health and safety of workers and diners. The arrival of COVID-19 created additional chall​enges for health professionals, including addressing the exposure and spread of COVID-19 in restaurants, implementing voluntary practices, and navigating multiple viral and respiratory illnesses spreading simultaneously. |
| Training Module | [Landscape of Vaccine Hesitancy](https://ks.train.org/ks/course/1102315/?activeTab=about) | Module reviewing the landscape of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the United States |
| Webinar | [Communicating with Pregnant Women About Flu and Tdap Vaccines](https://ks.train.org/ks/course/1097330/) | Join Immunize Nevada and Jennifer Zavolinsky, Director of Outreach Initiatives at Vaccinate Your Family for a presentation on Communicating with Pregnant Women About Flu and Tdap Vaccinations. |
| Presentation | [Black Communities and COVID-19 Vaccines, Respectful and Caring Conversations](PowerPoint%20Presentation%20(eziz.org)) | Tips for addressing vaccine hesitancy in Black communities through caring conversations and sharing concerns. |
| Toolkit | [Communicating Through COVID-19 and Beyond: Impact and Insights from the Field of Public Health](Communicating%20Through%20COVID-19%20and%20Beyond:%20Impact%20and%20Insights%20from%20the%20Field%20of%20Public%20Health%20-%20Public%20Health%20Communication%20Collaborative%20(publichealthcollaborative.org)) | Communicating Through COVID-19 and Beyond features insights and learnings from public health communicators across the country |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Event Name | Date | Time | Description |
| [Building Vaccine Confidence in Families](Meeting%20Registration%20-%20Zoom) | Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 12 - 1 p.m. | KALHD is co-hosting a webinar about building vaccine confidence with the Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) on April 21st. |
| [Give Your Community A Boost: A Regional Look at COVID-19 in the Heartland](https://bit.ly/3DdlRMH) | Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Looking at communications and best practices for COVID-19 vaccination in the heartland. |
| [Navigating Vaccine Hesitancy with Families](https://healthfund.org/a/webinar-navigating-vaccine-hesitancy/) | Tuesday, April 26, 2022 | 12 - 1 p.m. | Hosted by the United Methodist Fund, attendees will learn about combating vaccine hesitancy |

[Infectious Disease](https://www.jocogov.org/meetings-events/kansas-infectious-disease-symposium)

[Symposium](https://www.jocogov.org/meetings-events/kansas-infectious-disease-symposium)  May 4 – 5, 2022 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Hosted by the Johnson County

Both days health department, learn

more about new infectious

diseases. Register by April 27.

**VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE OF THE WEEK**

This week, we will wrap up the Tdap vaccine with pertussis. In addition, we will talk about the development of combination vaccines and how they have benefited the United States.

***What is it?***

Pertussis, often called Whooping Cough, is caused by a bacterium like tetanus and diphtheria. This disease is highly contagious and can be spread from person to person without symptoms. When the bacteria enter the body, it attaches to the cilia (hair-like extensions) that line part of the upper respiratory system. The cilia can become damaged and cause airways to swell. Pertussis typically causes severe complications in infants and young children who have not received a Tdap vaccine. About half of babies in the United States younger than 1 year old who get pertussis will need care in the hospital. Teens and adults can also get complications from pertussis, like fracturing ribs. The incubation period for pertussis is about 7 to 10 days and can even last a month.

***History Behind the Name “Whooping” Cough***

One of the tell-tale signs of pertussis is its signature cough. The cough typically starts off small and has cold-like symptoms. Over the course of the infection, the cough becomes more severe, eventually leading to rapid coughing fits and the signature “whooping” sound that comes from inhaling. The patient may even turn blue while coughing.

***Pregnancy and Pertussis***

You may have heard that doctors recommend a Tdap booster for all pregnant women and Tdap cocooning for people close to the pregnant person. This is because babies have an increased risk of dying or having severe life-altering complications from pertussis. While pregnant women themselves are not at a higher risk, they can spread the bacteria to the baby once it’s born. Many doctors also prescribe preventative antibiotics prior to birth. [The CDC has many resources for both the public and health providers on Tdap during pregnancy.](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html)

***Treatment***

Treating pertussis typically requires both preventative and active antibiotics to cure the infection. Preventative antibiotics are typical for people close to the family because of how contagious the disease is.

***History***

There isn’t much known about what caused pertussis to move from humans through bacteria. The bacteria were first isolated over 100 years ago in Paris, France by Jules Bordet and Octave Gengou. From there, a vaccine was invented very quickly and by 1914, there was a whole-cell vaccine to prevent pertussis.

***Vaccine History and Uptake***

As mentioned above, the first pertussis vaccine was developed in 1914. By the 1940s, the vaccine was combined with Tetanus and Diphtheria anti-toxins to form the early version of the Tdap, DTP. From there, incidences of pertussis decreased significantly over the course of the last century. The DTP vaccines were about 80% effective at offering protection from pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria and only provides 5-10 years of protection. In the United States, the DTaP vaccine replaced the original DTP vaccine for babies and children. It is still recommended that adults get the Tdap vaccine every 10 years.

In the 1990s, an acellular vaccine was introduced, which has now replaced the traditional Tdap vaccination. The ACIP currently recommends this vaccine. However, there has been incidences of pertussis that have grown since the 1980s, particularly because of the lack of long-term immunity from the vaccine.

***History of Combination Vaccines***

While vaccination remains the most cost-effective disease preventative measure, it continues to be a topic of contention for parents and families. While the Andrew Wakefield study did not help this, vaccination has always been considered problematic by some. To combat this, pharmaceutical companies and researchers developed combination vaccines by merging antigens into one product (MMR, MMRV, Tdap, etc.). These products are typically developed from like-minded antigens and can improve vaccination rates in children who may not come back for multiple shots. [There is a great study on the value of combo vaccines for children here.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4635899/)

***What We Can Learn***

Unfortunately, I have not had any connections to pertussis, so I don’t have any fun stories for you this week. But, the Tdap vaccine has revolutionized the way we treat bacterial diseases and their prevention. In addition, providers can continue to provide protection to patients through vaccinations throughout the adult lifespan.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/diagnosis-treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/causes-transmission.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/mom/real-story.html>

<https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/pertussis-whooping-cough>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27256351/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/index.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4635899/>