

ImmuNews

Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Newsletter



Annual Re-enrollment

Annual re-enrollment for all VFC providers will begin on May 1, 2026. As in the past, all VFC sites must re-enroll via the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). Every site that receives and administers VFC vaccines is required to complete and submit VFC re-enrollment using WIR.

Please watch for a GovDelivery email with more details about re-enrollment.

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Infant RSV Season Extension

End of Infant RSV Administration Season

Infant immunization administration season typically starts in October and ends at the end of March. After closely monitoring the Wisconsin RSV surveillance data, this current season is showing ongoing transmission later into the season.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that clinicians continue administering RSV monoclonal antibody products to eligible infants until April 30, 2026. Read the memo [Recommendation To Continue Administration Of Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Monoclonal Antibody Products Beyond March 31, 2026](#) to learn more.



This recommendation applies to:

Infants younger than 8 months of age entering their first RSV season who did not receive protection through maternal RSV vaccination.

Infants younger than 8 months whose maternal vaccination status is unknown or who were born fewer than 14 days after maternal vaccination.

Children 8 through 19 months of age who are recommended to receive RSV monoclonal antibody products because they are at increased risk for severe RSV disease during their second RSV season.



Ordering will still be available through the month of April. Product shipped will have an expiration date of August or September of 2026. This product will expire before the start of next infant RSV administration season; plan accordingly when ordering additional stock.



When your RSV product expires, it must be returned using the [vaccine return request form](#) as you would any other expired VFC vaccines.

Immunization Weeks



Vaccines are a great success story and have saved millions of lives around the world. Immunizations are indispensable to public health care. A highly immunized community is protected from serious outbreaks due to good herd immunity.

Providers are encouraged to utilize their electron health record (EHR) to identify missed and recommended vaccines to bring infants and adolescents up to date on their immunizations.

In month of April, we observe two key Immunization Awareness Initiatives here in the United States and one global initiative.

April 6-10, 2026

Adolescent Immunization Action Week (US):

The purpose of this initiative is to promote timely vaccinations for preteens and teens to prevent serious vaccine preventable illnesses such as HPV, meningitis, and influenza.

April 20-27, 2026

National Infant Immunization Week (US):

This is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from serious vaccine-preventable disease like whooping cough, measles, and influenza. According to WHO, immunization currently prevents 3.5 million to 5 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza, and measles.



April 23-30, 2026

World Immunization Week:

This is an initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against diseases. The 2026 campaign "For every generation, vaccines work" highlights about 150 million lives saved by vaccines over the past 50 years. The highlights of the week involve global efforts from WHO, UNICEF and various partners to raise awareness and support vaccination campaigns.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases



In 2025, there were multi-jurisdictional outbreaks of measles throughout the country, with 50 outbreaks occurring in 45 jurisdictions according to data from CDC. As of February 2026, 26 jurisdictions have reported cases of measles.

These widespread measles outbreaks especially in the unvaccinated pockets, underscore the importance of vaccination since measles is a highly transmissible disease. In 2000, the United States was given the status of becoming measles free which now is at the risk of being taken away due to continued virus circulation.



You can go to the DHS web page on measles with information about the disease and the Wisconsin outbreaks and disease count data: [Immunizations: Measles | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)



Providers are encouraged to check immunization status and utilize the WIR forecaster to bring individuals up to date on their vaccinations.



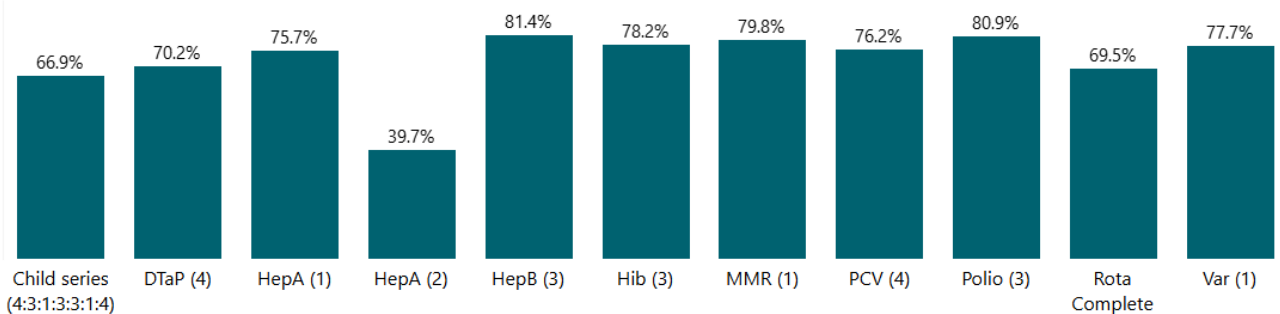
Vaccination Coverage of Wisconsin Children by 24 Months of Age

Updated: 03/09/2026

[View child data](#)

[View adolescent data](#)

Coverage Rates of Wisconsin 24-month olds, 2025



The 2025 data for MMR and other vaccines for different age groups statewide and county specific can be found on our data page:

[Immunizations: Child and Adolescent Vaccine Data | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)



WIR and Temperature Excursions

WIR System Modernization Project

DHS has selected a vendor to assist in the WIR system modernization project to strengthen system performance, improve data quality, enhance security, and support future public health needs.

There are no immediate changes to your current reporting or system access. Expect regular communication updates about this project. Training and transition information will be shared widely as we continue through this project.

Project timeline at a glance:

Project Kickoff/Initial Build Feb 2026–Summer 2026	DHS staff will be working with the vendor to set up and configure the initial version of the system.
System Testing Summer 2026	Partners will be invited to test the new system. This will be an opportunity for you to get an early preview.
Data Exchange Connections Oct 2026–Feb 2027	DHS will provide configuration information for transmitting data to and from the new system.
Training Jan–March 2027	Instructor-led training sessions and self-led training modules will be available to prepare users for the new system.
Launch Anticipated spring 2027	All providers will transition from the current system to the new system.

Weather in Wisconsin and Temperature Excursions



If your site experiences a power outage, VFC is here to help guide you through the temperature excursion process. We encourage VFC sites to review their Vaccine Management Plan and ensure the emergency plan is up-to-date. All temperature excursions involving VFC vaccine should be investigated and reported to the VFC program via a [Temperature Excursion Incident Report \(F-02257\)](#). If there are questions regarding temperature excursions, sites can contact VFC@wi.gov or Teema Carpenter at teema.carpenter@wi.gov.

Resources

First Shot By 11: Driving Early HPV Vaccination Through Structured Collaboration Webinar



April 22 12-1 pm CST
[Register for First Shot By 11](#)

The American Cancer Society is collaborating with the Children's Health Network (CHN), and Wayzata Children's Clinic to present First Shot By 11: Driving Early HPV Vaccination Through Structured Collaboration webinar.

In 2025, Children's Health Network achieved notable gains in early HPV vaccination by focusing on clinician engagement and a new internal measurement strategy—turning longstanding HPV vaccination recommendations into measurable improvement. Join us to learn about their network wide quality improvement structure and hear directly from clinicians involved in the work.

Open Forums

VFC open forum sessions are held once a month as a space to ask questions that you might have about VFC, vaccine ordering, WIR, WIR reports and more. Please save the following dates for future VFC open forums:

- May 6, 2026, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- June 3, 2026, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

In case you missed them, [previous open forums](#) are recorded.



VFC Stock Stickers

To help staff easily identify boxes of VFC vaccine in your storage units, the VFC Program has stickers available at no cost to you. The stickers are 1-inch circles, bright green, and have 63 stickers per sheet.

If you are interested in receiving some VFC stickers, please send an email to the VFC email box, vfc@wi.gov. Be sure to include your clinic name, VFC PIN, mailing address, and how many sheets you would like to receive.

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