



April/May 2025| Issue #4

ImmuNews

Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Newsletter

Timely Topics

- **McKesson now using TagAlert temperature monitors** for refrigerated vaccine shipments. These monitors are the same monitors that are being used in the frozen Moderna covid vaccine shipments. Providers should immediately press the blue Stop and Start button until the Stop icon appears and then read the indicator status to determine if the appropriate temperature was maintained during transit.
- **Upon re-enrollment in 2025**, all VFC providers will no longer be allowed to use the freezer compartment of a household combination unit for VFC vaccine storage. You may use a household combination unit to store refrigerated vaccine only— a separate stand-alone freezer must be used to store frozen vaccine.
- **All VFC vaccines (including influenza)** that expire or are spoiled and intact (not opened) must be returned. Instructions are available on the updated [WI VFC Vaccine Return Form](#). Returns must be completed within six months of the expiration date or spoil date. Never store spoiled or expired vaccine in the storage unit.
- **As a gentle reminder**, when email addresses change, please make sure to update those changes in WIR.

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International Doses In WIR

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) team is moving forward with adding non-US bivalent polio vaccine to WIR as we have seen an increase in the administration of this vaccine. Please note that bivalent polio vaccine will not count towards the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) schedule in WIR. Providers that use data exchange need to work with their IT staff to ensure that these records are treated appropriately against the ACIP schedule if using an internal forecaster in their electronic health record (EHR). We will look to add any other non-US vaccines at the direction of the Immunization program.

End of the RSV Season

- A typical RSV season runs from Fall through Spring.
- Administration of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) is recommended in October through March in most of the U.S.
- The formulation of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) does not change from year to year, and has a shelf life of about 18 months. If your supply of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) is not expired do not return it, it can be used next season.



Read more [detailed information from the CDC](#).

REMINDER: It's not too late to administer 2024–25 flu and covid vaccine. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine can be given up until the expiration date. If these vaccines expire, they must be returned within six months of the expiration date. Remember to **never** store expired vaccine in the storage

MMR Coverage in Wisconsin

Percent of 24-month-olds in Wisconsin who received one or more doses of the MMR vaccine over time

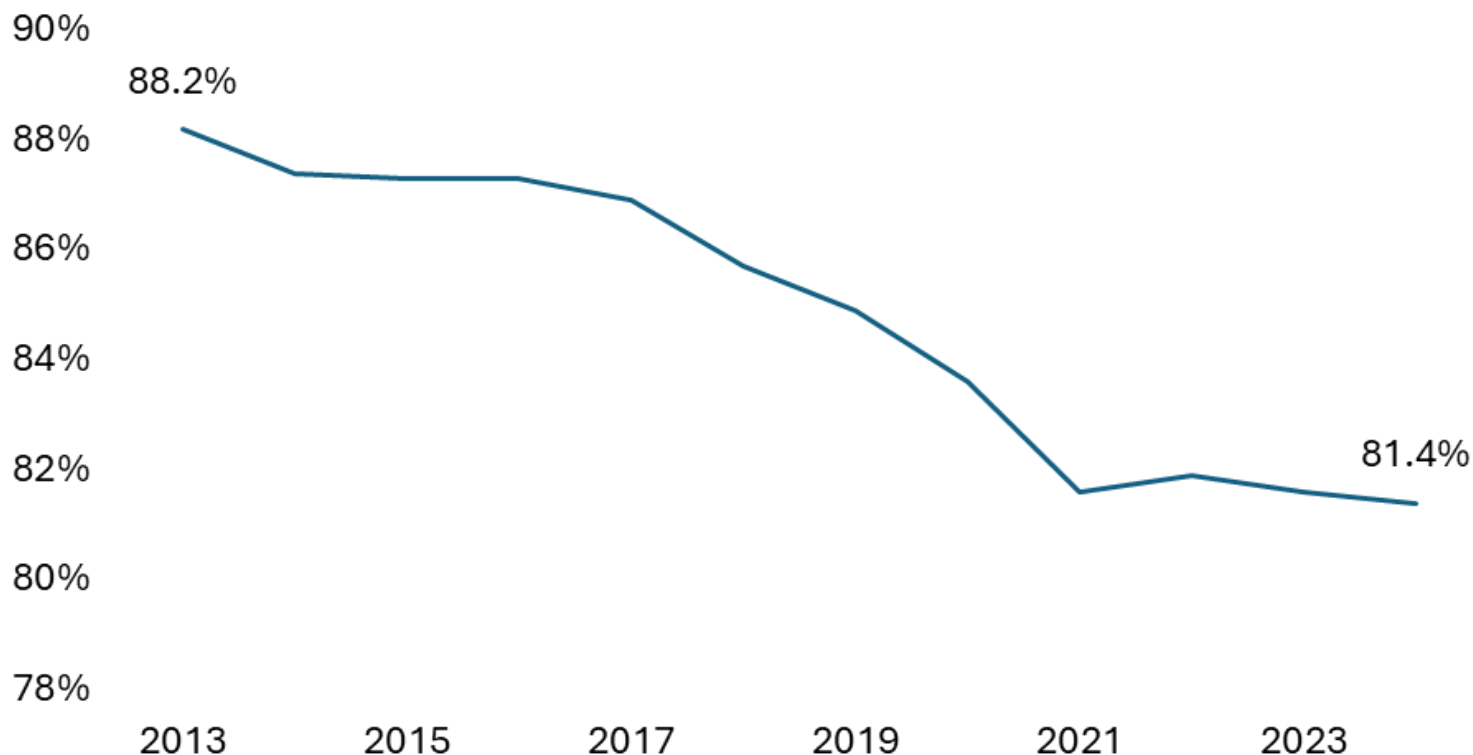


Figure 1

Measles is a highly contagious virus and easily spreads from person to person. The most effective way to prevent measles is with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. MMR vaccination is safe and effective. It is recommended that children receive two doses of the MMR vaccine: one dose at 12–15 months of age and a second dose at 4–6 years of age. In Wisconsin, MMR vaccination coverage by 24-months of age continues to decline (Figure 1). MMR vaccination rates also vary across counties in the state, ranging from 44% to 88% (Figure 2). Utilize the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry](#) (WIR) to see your MMR coverage rate. Use WIR or your electronic health record system to do [reminder/recall](#) to get unprotected children in for their first or second dose.

MMR Coverage in Wisconsin

Percent of 24-month-olds in Wisconsin by county who received one or more doses of the MMR vaccine, 2024

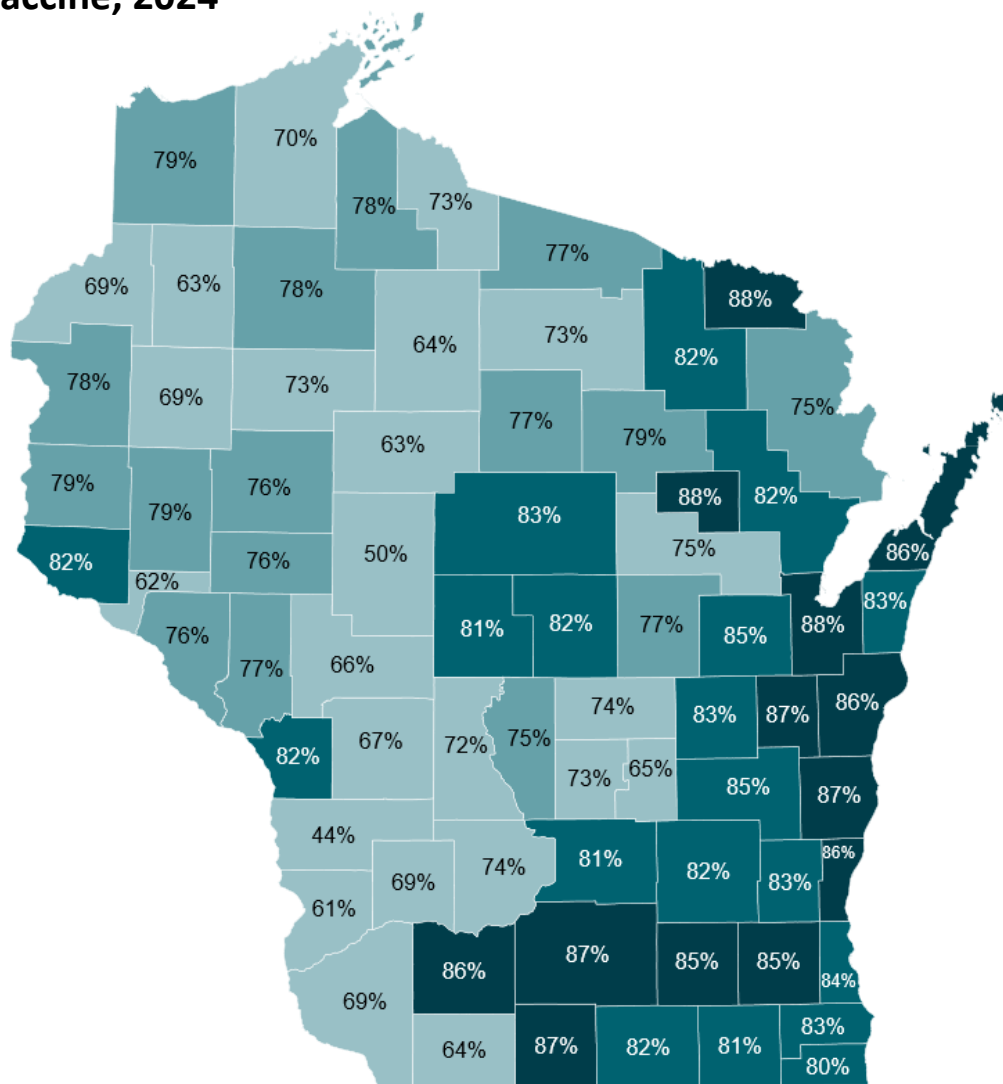


Figure 2

MMR resources

[DHS measles webpage](#)

[DHS MMR vaccination rate county maps](#)

[DHS MMR vaccination rate data \(excel\)](#)

[Measles questions and answers](#)

[MMR Vaccine Does Not Cause Autism- examine the evidence](#)



VFC Open Forums

The VFC program along with the WIR unit are holding monthly open forum sessions to give you an opportunity to ask questions about the VFC program, vaccine ordering, WIR, WIR reports, and more. Participation is **not** required.

The dates for future VFC Open Forums are:

May 7, 2025, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

June 11, 2025, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

July 9, 2025, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Link to join the [VFC Open Forums](#)

These open forums are recorded and can be found on our [vimeo page](#).

Annual Re-enrollment

Annual re-enrollment for all VFC providers will begin on May 1, 2025. 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 GovD email with more details about re-enrollment.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

is an observance held April 21–28, 2025. It is a week that highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and a time to celebrate the achievements of immunizations in promoting health communities.



Vaccine placement requirements

- Keep private and public vaccines clearly labeled and separated.
- Vaccine must be stored in the original packaging or amber colored bags with the following information: vaccine name, lot number, expiration date, and the NDC number from the box.
- Place vaccines with the earliest expiration date in front of those with a later date. The picture on the right gives an example of what proper vaccine storage looks like in a pharmaceutical-grade unit.



The VFC Program now has stickers for boxes of VFC vaccine. Stickers, to identify boxes of VFC vaccine, were a suggestion from VFC providers in the recent VFC survey.

The stickers are 1-inch circles, bright green, and have 63 stickers per page. You can receive them, at no cost to you, by completing [this survey](#).

Weather in Wisconsin can be unpredictable

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 \(F-02257\)](#). The directions are included within the report.

If there are questions regarding temperature excursions, sites can contact VFC@wi.gov or Teema Carpenter at teema.carpenter@wi.gov.





World Health
Organization

World Immunization Week

World Immunization Week 2025: Immunization for All is Humanly Possible (April 24-30)

World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, is to promote the life-saving power of immunization to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines are one of humanity's greatest achievements. Since 1974, they've saved 154 million lives worldwide, that's more than 3 million lives a year, or six people every minute, for five decades. In the same period, vaccination has reduced infant deaths by 40%, and more children now live to see their first birthday and beyond than at any other time in human history. Measles vaccine alone accounts for 60% of those lives saved.

More lives are now being saved, among people of all ages, with more recent vaccines against malaria, HPV, cholera, dengue, meningitis, RSV, Ebola, and mpox, reflecting an era of massive scientific advancements in vaccine development and delivery.

Because most U.S. children get routine vaccines, many vaccine-preventable diseases, such as [measles](#), [mumps](#), or [chickenpox](#), are not common in the United States. If people are not vaccinated, international travel increases their chances of getting and spreading diseases that are not common in the United States. Many popular destinations still have outbreaks of [measles](#) and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Staffing Updates

The Wisconsin Immunization Program is happy to announce that Lanya Hibbler has joined the program as our new Quality Improvement Coordinator. Lanya will be supporting clinics in quality improvement strategies. She can be reached by email at lanya.hibbler@wi.gov.



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Quality Improvement Corner



At-A-Glance for Providers

IQIP is CDC's national, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider-level immunization quality improvement (QI) program.

IQIP promotes and supports implementation of provider-level strategies designed to increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents.

IQIP strategies

- Facilitate return for vaccination
- Leverage IIS functionality to improve immunization practice
- Give a strong vaccine recommendation (emphasize HPV vaccine if provider has adolescent patients)
- Strengthen vaccination communications
- Custom strategy based on state or local public health priorities

IQIP Process IQIP is a 12-month process where public health representatives and VFC providers collaborate to identify QI strategies to increase vaccine uptake by improving and enhancing vaccination workflow.

Site visit

- Provider's vaccination workflow is observed, and initial coverage is reviewed
- QI strategies are selected
- Technical assistance is provided by the IQIP consultant
- Action items are chosen for strategy implementation plan

2-month and 6-month check-ins

- Progress toward strategy implementation is reviewed
- Technical assistance is provided by the IQIP consultant
- Strategy implementation plan is updated

12-month follow-up

- Progress toward strategy implementation is reviewed
- Technical assistance is provided by the IQIP consultant
- Year-over-year coverage change is reviewed

If interested in learning more please contact

Brianna.murnan@wi.gov or Sarah.born2@wi.gov



Autism Acceptance Month

This April, The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin #CelebratesDifferences for Autism Acceptance Month. Visit the [Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin](#) website to read about the work they do to provide Sensory Friendly Vaccine Clinics. They explain participants generally will have access to the following accommodations/tools:

- Social narrative to prepare for the visit
- One-on-one trained support staff
- Visual schedule
- Sensory fidgets
- Shotblocker to help with injection pain
- Buzzy Bee to help with injection pain
- Sensory tools like weighted blankets, calming sensory water toys, and noise canceling headphones

Upcoming Events

Immunize Wisconsin is hosting their third annual spring immunization conference: **Champions for Health: Boosting Vaccination Confidence in Uncertain Times**, on May 14 and 15, 2025, at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Registration, hotel booking information, and detailed agenda are coming soon. For more information, check out the [Immunize Wisconsin website](#).



The National HPV Roundtable has announced registration for the 2025 Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community. This initiative brings together health care professionals and community leaders dedicated to increasing HPV vaccination rates in rural areas.

To register, fill out the [online registration form](#). Registration is on a rolling basis; with the next two sessions being held on April 9 and May 14, from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom.



Contact Us

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