

June 2024 | Issue #1

ImmuNews

Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Newsletter

Welcome Letter

The Wisconsin Immunization Program is excited to bring back ImmuNews, a newsletter that was published many years ago as a way to provide updates on state immunization program activities and relevant news-to-use. Our target audience is our Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers, local and Tribal Health Departments, public health agencies, and others who are involved in the VFC program.

ImmuNews issues will feature several articles on various topics including immunization updates, VFC program updates, Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) news, vaccine management, quality improvement, resources and training announcements, and many more. ImmuNews will be published every two months via GovDelivery. We will post previous issues on Wisconsin Department of Health Services [Immunization Page](#).

We hope this newsletter will serve as a great resource for your clinics. If there are topics you want to see in future publications, please email us at VFC@wi.gov.

Thank you for your continued efforts and support to keep our communities healthy!

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VFC Program Staffing Updates

As of March 31, 2024 we bid farewell to Wilmot Valhmu, the Regional Advisor to the Madison/southern region. Wilmot has retired after 17 years of exemplary service to the Wisconsin Immunization program.

If you are in the Madison/southern region and you have questions or need assistance, please contact Brianna Murnan via email Brianna.Murnan@wi.gov.

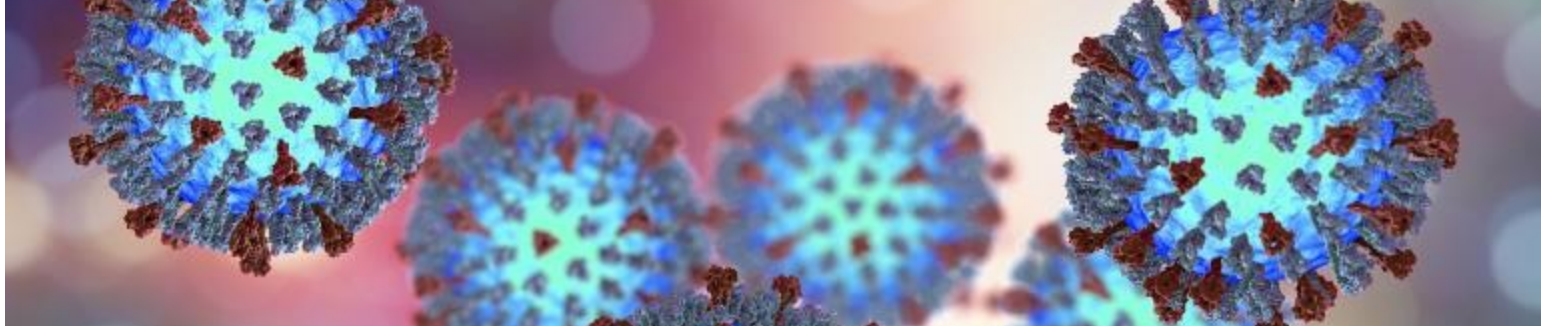
Dawn Howard has joined the VFC team as the Vaccine Ordering Specialist. Dawn will be your contact person for vaccine orders and returns. Dawn can be reached by email at Dawn.Howard@wi.gov.

Teema Carpenter continues to be your primary contact for vaccine excursions. Please send those excursion reports to VFC@wi.gov, and in the subject line, indicate "Temperature Excursion, Attn: Teema." To contact Teema directly with questions, email Teema.Carpenter@wi.gov.

Need to contact other immunization program staff?

A full list of staff contact information can be found on page 8!





Vaccine Preventable Disease Spotlight

On April 26, 2024 Wisconsin DHS issued a [news release](#) about a confirmed case of measles in a WI resident. DHS, in coordination with local health departments, have worked to identify and directly notify people who may have been exposed.

Infection prevention and control

Being prepared to care for a patient with measles helps reduce risk of transmission to others. When an area is experiencing known cases and exposures of measles it may be helpful for health care facilities to add additional screening questions when scheduling appointments.

Consider asking the patient if they have been exposed to measles in the last 28 days. If the answer is yes, triage could further include asking for additional information about the exposure such as were they at a possible exposure location identified on the [DHS website](#), or if they received a call from a local health department or as part of a facility exposure notification.

Measles reporting and training

Local and Tribal Health Departments (LTHDs) and health care providers are encouraged to work together to achieve timely and accurate reporting, as it is essential for containing potential outbreaks.

As a Category 1 reportable disease, health care providers *are required* to immediately report any suspected case of measles to the [LTHD in which the patient resides](#).

The LTHD will work with the DHS immunization program for approval and to arrange logistics for transportation of the specimens.

Additional measles resources

[Measles: Information for Public Health Professionals | CDC](#)

[Immunizations: Measles | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[DHS graphics: Put measles on the spot \(English, Hmong, Spanish\)](#)

[DHS graphics: Measles can very easily spread from person to person \(English, Hmong, Spanish\)](#)

2024 Wisconsin “BigShot” Awards

208 VFC–enrolled health care providers were awarded the Wisconsin Immunization Program’s annual “BigShot” award. The award recognizes organizations who had outstanding immunization rates for 2023, according to data pulled from the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR).

There are four categories of awards:

- Providers who have 90 percent or more of their patients vaccinated according to the recommended 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 schedule for 24–36 month-olds.
- Providers who have 90 percent or more of their patients who have at least 1 dose of Hepatitis A vaccine by 24 months of age.
- Providers who have 80 percent or more of their adolescent patients between 13–17 years of age up to date on Tdap, Meningococcal, and have completed the HPV series.
- Providers who have 95 percent or more of their patients who have at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months of age.

The Wisconsin “BigShot” awards are part of annual observance of [National Infant Immunization Week \(NIIW\)](#) held the last week of April. NIIW highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities.



National Infant
Immunization Week

Quality Improvement Corner

Did you know that there are ways to achieve higher vaccination rates in your clinic? The [Immunization Quality Improve for Providers \(IQIP\) program](#) is CDC’s national, Vaccines for Children provider-level Immunization quality improvement program. IQIP serves to assist and support health care providers by identifying opportunities to improve vaccine uptakes and to help providers be:

- Motivated to try new vaccination service delivery strategies and incorporate changes into their current practices.
- Supported in sustaining changes and improvement to their vaccination service delivery.
- Aware of and knowledgeable about vaccination coverage and missed opportunities to vaccinate.
- Able to use available data from the IIS to improve services and coverage.

In 2023, 58 Wisconsin clinics participated in at least 1 IQIP site visit. If your clinic is interested in improving your immunization practice and raising your immunization rates, [check out our page](#) or email the Wisconsin IQIP Coordinator, Sarah Born at sarah.born2@wi.gov for more information.

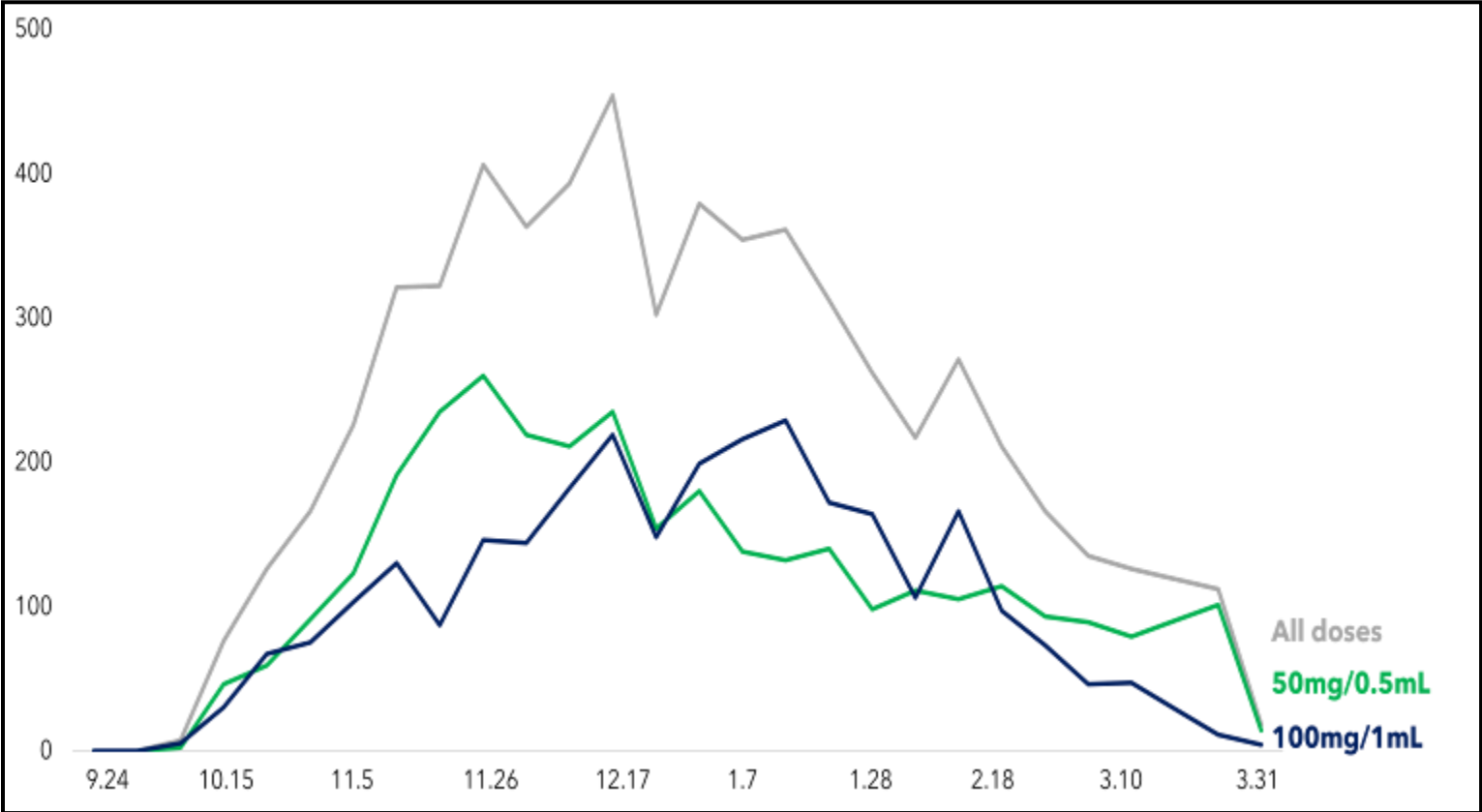


Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) Administration Data for 2023—2024

2023–2024 RSV season in Wisconsin

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is the leading cause of hospitalizations among infants in the United States. Generally, RSV season starts in October and ends in March. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends nirsevimab as a way to protect newborns and infants entering their first RSV season or for high-risk children in their second RSV season.

The graph below illustrates all doses administered during the 2023–2024 RSV season in Wisconsin, with **VFC providers administering over 6,000 doses of nirsevimab** to VFC-eligible infants alone. A little **more than half (54%) of doses administered were the 50mg/0.5mL presentation**, with the remaining doses administered (**46%**) being the **100mg/1mL presentation**.



Additional immunization data resources

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry is our source for data on vaccine rates. Check out our [immunization rate data dashboards](#) to see vaccination coverage rates on all recommended vaccines in Wisconsin.



Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) Vaccine Reminders



Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Immunization Program would like to thank our enrolled VFC providers for all their hard work over the last nine months to ensure that infants and young children in Wisconsin have access to protection against the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

According to the CDC's guideline, administration of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) vaccine ended on March 31, 2024. Following this guidance, nirsevimab will not be available to order on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) order screen until next RSV season.

All Nirsevimab products in Wisconsin have an expiration date ending in 2025. Any inventory remaining should continue to be kept in proper storage and monitored until the start of the next RSV season.

VFC Customer Satisfaction Survey

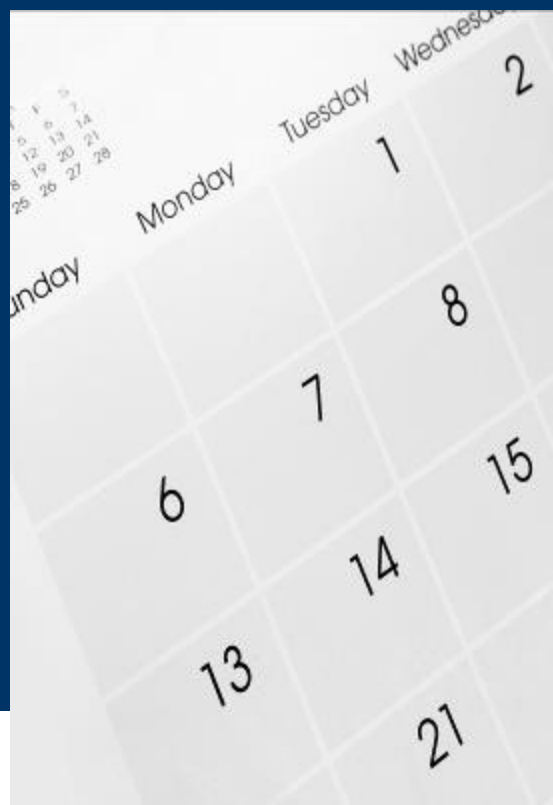
The Wisconsin VFC program sent out a customer satisfaction survey in the beginning of April and closed April 30, 2024.

The survey was used to gauge VFC providers satisfaction levels and experience with the WI VFC program. We are currently looking at the data and will use feedback from the survey to implement future changes and improvements to the program.



**Thank you to everyone
who participated and
provided feedback on the
VFC program!**

Upcoming Events



VFC and WIR open forum

The Wisconsin VFC Program and the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) unit will hold an open forum session to give you an opportunity to ask questions that you may have about VFC, annual re-enrollment, vaccine ordering, WIR, WIR reports, and more.

Participation is not required but is being offered as a way to connect with staff from VFC and WIR.

Upcoming dates:

- **July 10, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**
- **August 7, 2024 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

Use this link for all upcoming sessions: [Join via Zoom](#)

Resources and Training

“Vaccine Hesitancy in the Plain Community” webinar recording

The Clark County Immunization Coalition (CCIC) recently invited [Dr. Mark Loudon](#) to present to community partners on the topic of “Vaccine Hesitancy in the Plain Community.” The mission of CCIC is to increase immunization rates to protect residents of Clark County from vaccine-preventable diseases. Inviting Dr. Loudon to present on vaccine hesitancy in the Plain Community helped provide continued education to CCIC members and other community partners who serve members of the Plain Community in Clark County.

Checkout these resources from the presentation

Video presentation recording: [Vaccine Hesitancy in the Plain Community - Dr. Mark Loudon](#)

PDF of slides from presentation: [Vaccine Hesitancy in the Plain Community - Dr. Mark Loudon](#)



Additional training and resources for VFC providers can be found on the [VFC Program Webpage!](#)



Contact Us

Program Contact Information

Immunization Program

DHSImmProgram@wi.gov | 608-267-9959

VFC Program

VFC@wi.gov

WIR Helpdesk

dhswirhelp@wi.gov | 608-266-9691

Immunization Program Regional Staff

Eau Claire Regional Office

Shayna Nickell

Western Regional Advisor

Shayna.Nickell@wi.gov | 715-836-4028

Green Bay Regional Office

Susan Nelson

Northeastern Regional Advisor

SusanL.Nelson@wi.gov | 920-448-5231

Fallon Mercier

VFC Site Monitor

Fallon.Mercier@wi.gov | 920-448-4802

Madison Regional Office

Brianna Murnan

VFC Site Monitor

Brianna.Murnan@wi.gov | 608-695-4070

Milwaukee Regional Office

Monica Thakur

Southeastern Regional Advisor

Monica.Thakur@wi.gov | 414-227-3995

Jill Gasperic

VFC Site Monitor

Jill.Gasperic@wi.gov | 414-469-0826

Rhineland Regional Office

Christie Larmie

Northern Regional Advisor

Christie.Larmie@wi.gov | 715-365-2709

