

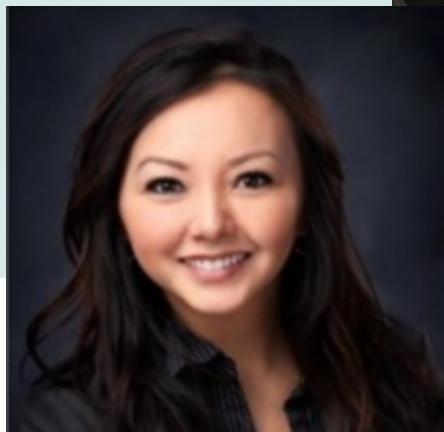
October 2024 | Issue #2

# ImmuNews

Wisconsin Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Newsletter

## 2024 Immunization Champion Award Winner for Wisconsin

We are pleased to announce Zoua Yang, PharmD, as the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Immunization Champion Award winner representing Wisconsin!



This prestigious award honors individuals at the local level who go above and beyond to foster and promote immunizations in their communities. Zoua has worked diligently in her community as a vaccine advocate, coordinating over 500 community vaccination events throughout Wisconsin and Michigan, and training over 50 health care professionals at CVS Pharmacy on vaccine education and administration. Zoua collaborates with various organizations to host vaccination clinics and provide home visits for patients unable to travel. In 2022, she founded Wausau Family Pharmacy, focusing on vaccine administration and education, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Zoua collaborates with various organizations to host vaccination clinics and provide home visits for patients unable to travel, and her pharmacy has donated hundreds of vaccines to uninsured individuals.

Please take a moment to learn more about Zoua's impact and the impact that the other Immunization Champion awardees have had in their state [Immunization Champion Awards - Association of Immunization Managers](#).

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# RSV Season Reminder



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season has begun in Wisconsin. RSV is a common respiratory virus that causes cold-like symptoms. Among infants, RSV is the most common cause of hospitalization. It can cause bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lungs), pneumonia (infection of the lungs), and ear infections. DHS [has a webpage](#) dedicated to learning more about RSV.

There are also new and updated provider resources made available through DHS that include an overview of [RSV Protection for Infants](#), tip sheets for [RSV Vaccination for Pregnant Persons](#), and [Infant RSV Immunization](#), plus frequently asked questions.

## RSV Vaccine Products

As of September 3, VFC providers should have begun to place orders for nirsevimab to ensure they are ready to start vaccination on October 1. Nirsevimab should be administered from October through March and is available in 50 mg or 100 mg presentations in five dose packages.

### **Nirsevimab repayment from last season**

If you used private stock last year to vaccinate VFC eligible patients, you will need to order nirsevimab this year to receive repayment. If you borrowed *less than five doses*, please remove that number of doses from one of your initial VFC shipments as payback. Note *that borrowing for this season will follow normal rules of borrowing as noted in the [Wisconsin VFC Resource Guide](#)*. The VFC team will follow up individually with entities who reported that they used more than five doses of private stock for VFC eligible children, as a repayment will occur when allocations allow.

### **Abrysvo (vaccine for pregnant individuals)**

Abrysvo is available to order in WIR and is recommended for pregnant patients who are between 32 through 36 weeks and 6 days gestation. Abrysvo should be administered September through January.

If you have any questions, please email [VFC@wi.gov](mailto:VFC@wi.gov).



# Flu and COVID Vaccine Available to Order

## Influenza

Do you need additional flu vaccine beyond what you prebooked, or did you miss prebook? If so, please send in your request to [VFC@wi.gov](mailto:VFC@wi.gov). Be sure to include your PIN, the number of doses of vaccine you want, along with the name of the product you want to order. Flu products available to order are:

- Flulaval prefilled syringe
- FluMist
- Flucelvax
- Fluzone prefilled syringe

## COVID Vaccine

Vaccines for COVID-19 are available to order in WIR for the 2024-2025 season. *Reminder: COVID vaccines for the previous 2023-2024 season are no longer authorized or approved for use.* The available vaccines are:

Manufacturer	WIR Trade Name	Presentation	Unit of Sale NDC
Pfizer Inc.	COMIRNATY 12+	12y+; SYR; 10pk	00069-2432-10
Pfizer Inc.	PFIZER 5Y-11Y	Ped 5y-11y; SDV; 10pk	59267-4438-02
Pfizer Inc.	PFIZER 6M-4Y	Ped 6m-4y; MDV3; 10pk	59267-4426-02
ModernaTX Inc.	SPIKEVAX 12+	12y+; SYR; 10pk	80777-0110-93
ModernaTX Inc.	MODERNA 6M-11Y	Ped 6m-11y; SYR; 10pk	80777-0291-80

## Novavax

The Novavax COVID vaccine is now available through the VFC program. The expiration date for this batch of vaccine is October 31, 2024. The VFC program will continue to distribute vaccine up until 18 days before expiration and encourages ordering smaller quantities of Novavax at this time.

Novavax is pursuing a shelf-life extension for this lot and future lots. A QR code on the vaccine carton links to an expiration look-up tool so that providers can check for the most up-to-date expiration information.



# New Staff Spotlight

The Wisconsin Immunization Program is happy to announce that Thanee Xiong has joined the program as the new Immunization Program Regional Advisor to the Southern Wisconsin region, replacing Wilmot Valhmu who retired earlier this year.

Thanee Xiong is an experienced educator and registered nurse. In her role as a nurse, she specialized in Intensive Care Unit, and Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology. Thanee is passionate about fostering a supportive learning environment and has contributed to several nursing programs, helping to bridge the gap between clinical practice and patients. Her commitment to health care and education continues with taking on her role of Southern Region Immunization Advisor.

Thanee will be conducting VFC site visits, enrollment visits, and is the primary contact person for the Southern Region for the Immunization Program.

Contact information for Thanee Xiong:

[Thanee.Xiong@wi.gov](mailto:Thanee.Xiong@wi.gov)

608-267-9391

## Upcoming Holiday Season Reminder

As we approach the holiday season, the WI VFC Program would like to remind all providers that orders for vaccines will not be processed during the following holidays:

- November 11
- November 28 and 29

Monitor your inventory closely and plan your vaccine orders carefully to allow for holiday closures.

**Be sure to update your office hours in WIR if your office is going to be closed or if your office hours change.**



# How to Handle a Temperature Excursion

Weather in Wisconsin can be unpredictable and can lead to power outages, creating emergency conditions that can cause damage to your vaccine inventory. Having proper vaccine storage and handling practices in place and continuous monitoring of vaccine storage unit temperatures and equipment is vital to ensuring the viability of your vaccine supply and the safety of your patients. Sites should review these protocols on an annual basis and ensure they are up to date.

If your site experiences a power outage, the VFC program is here to help guide you through the temperature excursion process.

All temperature excursions involving VFC vaccine should be investigated and reported to the VFC program via the [Temperature Excursion Incident Report, F-02257](#) (Word). The directions for what to include and where to send the completed document are included within the report.

If there are additional questions regarding temperature excursions, site can contact [VFC@wi.gov](mailto:VFC@wi.gov) or contact Teema Carpenter at [teema.carpenter@wi.gov](mailto:teema.carpenter@wi.gov).



## Need to contact a vaccine manufacturer?

Dynavax: 844-375-4728

GlaxoSmithKline: 888-825-5249

Massachusetts Biological Labs: 617-474-3220

MedImmune: 877-633-4411

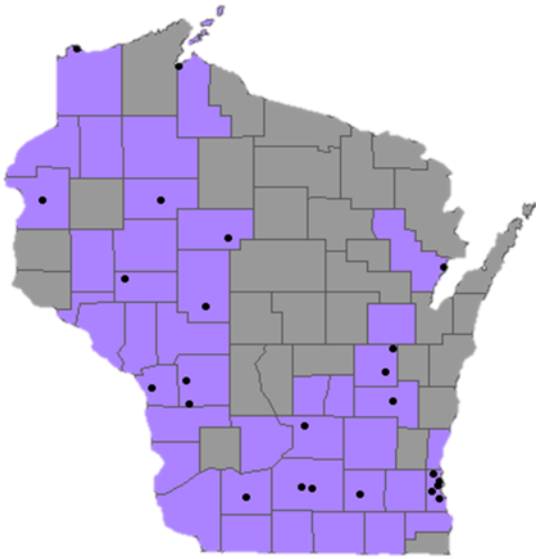
Merck: 800-672-6372

Pfizer: 800-438-1985

Sanofi-Pasteur: 800-822-2463

Seqirus: 855-358-8966





# Routine Immunizations through Community Engagement (RICE) 3.0 Grant Awardees

Map of Wisconsin showing the 41 counties that will be served by the RICE 3.0 grantees.

The Wisconsin Immunization Program utilized funding from the CDC to continue the third iteration of the Routine Immunization through Community Engagement (RICE) grant program. Twenty five organizations consisting of community-based organizations, local and Tribal health departments, and pharmacies, have received funding for up to \$40,000 to increase vaccine equity across Wisconsin. See the list of grantees below and check out our [webpage](#) to read more about the RICE 3.0 grantees, and the history of the grant program.

Access Community Health Center

Ashland County Health and Human Services

Chippewa Valley Free Clinic

City of Praise

Clark County Health Department

Dane County Immunization Coalition

Fond du Lac County Health Department

Great Rivers United Way

Hayat Pharmacy

Health Connections Inc.

Indianhead Community Action Agency

Iowa County Health Department

Jefferson County Health Department

Lake Superior Community Health Center

Monroe County Health Department

Multicultural Coalition

Muslim Community Health Center

Oconto County Health and Human Services

Polk County Health Department

Portage Community School District

Scenic Bluffs Health Center

SSM Health

SW Suburban Health Department

Taylor County Health Department

Winnebago County Public Health



# 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:

- **November 7, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**
- **December 4, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

Zoom link for all sessions is available by [clicking here](#).

## Resources and Training

### Let's RISE Campaign

[Let's RISE \(Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone\)](#) is a toolkit that is geared towards health care providers such as pediatricians, family medicine physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others. It contains evidence-based strategies, tools, visual-aids, and communication resources to help get routine immunization coverage back on track.

### Free opportunity to receive CE credit for viewing *Shot in the Arm!*

*Shot in the Arm*, a documentary exploring vaccine hesitancy, is available free for online viewing during the coming year thanks to the generous support of the Indiana Immunization Coalition and Indiana University School of Medicine. [Click here to register to view the film and to obtain CME CNE, or CPE credit.](#)



### VFC Program recordings

Missed the previous VFC open forums this year? [Check out our Vimeo page](#) where we will be posting recordings of our future open forums and webinars.



# Contact Us

## Program Contact Information

### **Immunization Program**

[DHSImmProgram@wi.gov](mailto:DHSImmProgram@wi.gov) | 608-267-9959

### **VFC Program**

[VFC@wi.gov](mailto:VFC@wi.gov)

### **WIR Helpdesk**

[dhswirhelp@wi.gov](mailto:dhswirhelp@wi.gov) | 608-266-9691

## VFC Site Monitors

Jill Gasperic

*VFC Site Monitor- Southeastern region*

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Fallon Mercier

*VFC Site Monitor- Northeastern region*

[Fallon.Mercier@wi.gov](mailto:Fallon.Mercier@wi.gov) | 920-448-4802

Brianna Murnan

*VFC Site Monitor- Southern region*

[Brianna.Murnan@wi.gov](mailto:Brianna.Murnan@wi.gov) | 608-695-4070

## Immunization Program Regional Advisors

### **Eau Claire Regional Office**

Shayna Nickell

*Western Regional Advisor*

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### **Green Bay Regional Office**

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*Northeastern Regional Advisor*

[SusanL.Nelson@wi.gov](mailto:SusanL.Nelson@wi.gov) | 920-448-5231

### **Milwaukee Regional Office**

Monica Thakur

*Southeastern Regional Advisor*

[Monica.Thakur@wi.gov](mailto:Monica.Thakur@wi.gov) | 414-227-3995

### **Rhineland Regional Office**

Christie Larmie

*Northern Regional Advisor*

[Christie.Larmie@wi.gov](mailto:Christie.Larmie@wi.gov) | 715-365-2709

### **Southern Regional Office**

Thanee Xiong

*Southern Regional Advisor*

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