

IMMUNIZATION Update

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Immunization Update

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#strongerimmunities.
strongercommunities.

Question of the week

What are some good strategies to improve vaccination messages?



Public health communicators play an important role in expanding and promoting public health messaging, especially regarding vaccination information. To effectively communicate these messages, providers can utilize various strategies.

- **Collaboration:** collaborate with local health departments, community organizations and healthcare providers to disseminate accurate and accessible information through multiple channels, including social media, community events and educational workshops.
- **Community Engagement:** providers can engage with diverse communities to address specific concerns and cultural barriers related to vaccinations. Tasks such as developing culturally tailored materials, organizing informational sessions and conducting outreach efforts in underserved areas can help increase vaccine acceptance and uptake.
- **Stay up-to-date:** It's essential for practitioners to stay updated on the latest research and guidelines related to vaccinations to provide evidence-based information to the public.

The Public Health Communication Collaborative (PHCC) will be hosting their next webinar, *Comms Crash Course: Developing and Producing Videos to Expand Public Health Messaging*, on Wednesday, **May 1, at 12 pm ET / 9 am PT**. This webinar is designed for public health communicators eager to harness the full spectrum of video production tools and storytelling techniques to captivate, educate and inspire their local communities.

PHCC will dive into best practices with experts who have successfully leveraged the power of video to broaden their outreach, engage with diverse populations and foster health-aware communities.

Join this webinar to learn more about the potential of video and become a more effective visual storyteller in public health.

Register [here](#)

Use of JYNNEOS vaccine for mpox prevention in the United States

Since October 2023, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the 2-dose JYNNEOS vaccine series for individuals aged 18 years and older who are at risk for mpox.

JYNNEOS is the only vaccine currently available for this purpose. The supply of JYNNEOS vaccine is currently sufficient, allowing clinicians to prioritize its administration via the subcutaneous route in accordance with FDA licensure.



Doses previously administered intradermally are equally effective and do not require repetition. However, the Emergency Use Authorization permits intradermal administration if desired by the patient and if the clinician is proficient in this technique.

Both ACAM2000 and JYNNEOS remain available for individuals at occupational risk* of orthopoxvirus infections, such as research laboratorians, as outlined in the 2022 ACIP recommendations. Resources pertaining to ACAM2000 for the mpox outbreak have been archived due to its lack of utilization during the outbreak. However, resources for ACAM2000 remain accessible on smallpox webpages.

Read the full update on the CDC's website [here](#).

The CDC releases tools to help prepare for extreme heat

On Monday, April 22, CDC, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS), launched a new Heat and Health Initiative to educate Americans about heat exposure. The new initiative has three resources, which combined give proactive actions people can take to protect themselves: stay cool; stay hydrated; know the symptoms.



- **Forecasting:** The [HeatRisk Forecast Tool](#), developed by both CDC and NOAA, provides a seven-day heat forecast nationwide that tells you when temperatures may reach levels that could harm your health.
- **Information:** CDC's [HeatRisk Dashboard](#), a consumer-friendly product, integrates the HeatRisk Forecast Tool data with other information, including details on local air quality, to inform the public on how best to protect themselves when outdoor temperatures are high and could impact their health.
- **Clinical Guidance:** Newly developed [CDC clinical guidance](#) helps clinicians keep at-risk individuals safe when temperatures rise.

“Heat can impact our health, but heat-related illness and death are preventable,” said CDC Director Mandy Cohen, M.D., M.P.H. “We are releasing new heat and health tools and guidance to help people take simple steps to stay safe in the heat.”

More than two-thirds of all Americans were under heat alerts in 2023. Heat events are becoming more frequent and intense. A [recent report from CDC](#) found that daily emergency department visits because of heat-related illness in 2023 peaked in several regions over the warm-season months and, in those regions, remained exceedingly high for an extended duration. Heat can be especially dangerous for people with underlying health conditions.

2020 Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) annual report



The Louisiana Department of Health released the **2020 Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Annual Report**, which provides crucial insights into causes and disparities of **deaths among women within a year of pregnancy in Louisiana**.

The report also identifies actions that can be taken by health systems, policymakers, and communities to prevent deaths and life-threatening complications in the future.

Click the links below for more information on Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review.

Direct link to report: https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/FamilyHealth/2020_PAMR_Report_April2024.pdf

LDH PAMR Page: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/pamr>

Partners PAMR Page: <http://partnersforfamilyhealth.org/maternalmortality/>

ICYMI: Invasive meningococcal disease on the rise

CDC reported 422 cases of meningococcal disease in the United States in 2023, the highest number since 2014.

This year, CDC reports 143 cases since March 25, an increase of 62 cases from the same time last year.

A specific strain of meningococcus, known as sequence type (ST) 1466, was responsible for most cases (101 out of 148, or 68%) within the serogroup Y category reported in the United States in 2023.



These cases were notably prevalent among the following groups:

- Individuals ages 30–60 years (65%),

- Black or African American individuals (63%), and
- People living with HIV (15%).

Most cases caused by ST-1466 in 2023 presented with symptoms other than meningitis:

- 64% showed signs of bacteremia.
- At least 4% had septic arthritis.
- Out of 94 patients with recorded outcomes, 17 (18%) died, indicating a higher fatality rate compared to an 11% fatality rate for serogroup Y cases between 2017 and 2021.

Healthcare providers are urged to maintain a high level of suspicion for meningococcal disease, particularly among groups experiencing a disproportionate increase in cases. Recognize that patients might not always display typical meningitis symptoms and ensure that everyone recommended for meningococcal vaccination, including those with HIV, is up to date with their vaccinations.

Read the full CDC-issued Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory: [Increase in Invasive Serogroup Y Meningococcal Disease in the United States](#).



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The advertisement features a photograph of a smiling man holding a young girl. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image. The background of the ad has a color gradient from blue to green.

Was IZ Newsletter Issue 144 informative?

Yes

No

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