

## VCHIP VDH COVID-19 Q&A Chat August 24, 2022

### COVID-19 Vaccine

**Q: From Lisa Gannon to Everyone 12:40 PM: Is masking around others still recommended for days 5-10 post-Covid? (for those able to mask)? If testing is not required to return now, it seems sensible but don't want to assume.**

**A: Breena: CDC still recommends that, Lisa. VDH does not say that.**

**Q: From Catherine Naden to Everyone 12:45 PM: Please speak to how we can increase access to PCR tests for kids under 2. Concerns include lack of available appointments and families are bearing the cost of those tests (\$115/test).**

**A: From Ilisa Stalberg (she/her) to Everyone 12:48 PM: @Catherine: Can you send me more info about the out-of-pocket costs your patients are experiencing: [ilisa.stalberg@vermont.gov](mailto:ilisa.stalberg@vermont.gov)? I'm curious if insurance isn't reimbursing or if there is a different issue? Is it for symptomatic patients or close contact or both?**

**Q: From Nathaniel Waite (He/Him) to Everyone 12:47 PM: How does this booster information impact those with initial J&J vaccination with mRNA booster?**

**A: From Merideth.Plumpton to Everyone 01:02 PM: Nate, it is my understanding that the bivalent booster will be available to anyone who has complete a primary COVID series regardless of brand.**

**Q: From Alicia to Everyone 12:50 PM: Lots of parents whose kids 5-12 had dose #1 + dose #2 - but not dose # 3 yet (many had COVID in Jan 2022-April 2022) - asking whether they should "wait" till the new vaccine comes out later this fall?**

**A: From Rebecca Bell to Everyone 12:53 PM: Agree with Alicia that this is a very common question. I am wondering from Merideth if we have a better sense for timing for bivalent for the 5-11 age group and if we know what the timing would be post-most recent dose. (i.e. if a kid in this age group gets a booster now, will they have to wait 5 months for the bivalent?)?**

**A: From Lee, Benjamin to Everyone 12:56 PM: Alicia and Becca, agree that part of the issue remains if/when bivalent vaccine be authorized for children. If they get a booster now, I don't imagine that a second booster (or any formulation) will be authorized anytime soon. I am among those who is a bit skeptical that a bivalent booster will have as large an impact as hoped. Boosters will certainly help, but I don't think they will make a night/day difference compared to a standard booster, so if it is unclear when bivalent might be available for children, I would opt for getting the current booster formulation in before the cold weather starts.**

**A: From Rebecca Bell to Everyone 01:00 PM: Thanks Ben. That's what we've been recommending on the vaccine town halls but just wanted to make sure.**

**Q: From Elizabeth Hunt to Everyone 12:52 PM: Any idea what VT pharmacies will be providing for Bivalent COVID vaccine?**

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A: Meredith (verbally): It is available to all national pharmacies but I don't know the specific pharmacies in Vermont.

**Q: From Alex Bannach MD, NCH to Everyone 12:56 PM: Do we know if there will be an official recommendation re timing of bivalent booster not only for interval from last vaccine dose but also for interval from interval COVID disease for best efficacy?**

A: Meredith (verbally): I hope so. We've asked that question multiple times.

### **Polio Vaccine**

**Q: From Michelle Dorwart to Everyone 12:41 PM: For adults who did not receive polio vaccine as a child, what is the recommended approach to vaccinating them? We have had many people calling to request polio vaccine but our state supply is only for pediatric patients. We've tried prescribing to pharmacies but that also hasn't worked**

A: From Merideth.Plumpton to Everyone 12:42 PM: Michelle I am going to talk about Polio vaccine next.

A: From Lee, Benjamin to Everyone 12:59 PM: Regarding polio vaccines for adults, another indication is someone traveling to certain regions with increased circulation of vaccine-derived polio strains. We usually refer routine vaccinations to PCPs if needed for new doses, I was unaware that it is not routinely available via PCP to adults, so this is not good news for me as well... UVM travel clinic should be able to provide for adults as needed, but for many insurance plans, vaccines given in a travel clinic require out-of-pocket payment.

A: From Michelle Dorwart to Everyone 01:01 PM: The UVM pharmacy told a patient that they can draw up and dispense the polio vaccine but then the patient must hurry "upstairs" for it to be administered within 30 minutes by someone. I'm planning to call the UVM pharmacy this afternoon to discuss. But might be useful for travel clinic to be aware that that's what pharmacy is telling people.

A: From Lee, Benjamin to Everyone 01:03 PM: Michelle, most vaccines given in travel clinic are prescribed, so the patient needs to pick up the dose from pharmacy and bring it to id/travel clinic for administration.

### **Monkeypox Vaccine**

**Q: From daronzon to Everyone 12:58 PM: Will colleges and university health centers be slated to get/give the Jynneos vaccine? I am thinking this is an important age group to reach and often they are not accessing their PCP offices frequently while they are at college.**

A; From Erica Gibson (she/her) to Everyone 01:00 PM: Denise I am reaching out to some college health contacts about that. I will let the CHAMP team know.