

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

June 16, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

Wendy Davis, MD, FAAP, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM
Breena Holmes, MD, FAAP, VCHIP Senior Advisor

Masks for Unvaccinated People Indoors

Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: The Vermont's state of emergency related to COVID-19 has ended as of midnight on June 15, 2021. The Agency of Education (AOE) *recommends* for unvaccinated people that masks be worn indoors. This is no longer a requirement. There are a handful of schools still in session this week. Summer programs that are AOE funded cannot require masking. However, private programs have the autonomy to require masking.

Planning for (More) Pediatric Vaccine Administration

The participants were polled during this call to provide feedback regarding COVID-19 vaccine in PCP offices. The results of the questions asked include:

As we plan for administration of COVID-19 vaccine to age groups younger than 12:

1. Do you wish to (and are you prepared to) administer vaccine in your office? Yes, 95% No, 5%
 - If you said yes, are prepared to do so? Yes, 59% No, 41%
*“Prepared” was clarified on the call: if you need to refrigerate, would you be able to do that? There are a lot of unknowns.
2. Do you wish (would you be available) to assist with pediatric vaccine administration in school-based clinics? Yes, 93% No, 7%
3. Do you agree with support for administration of pediatric COVID-19 vaccine in pharmacies? Yes, 24% No, 76%

Questions/Discussion

C: David Nelson, MD, UVM Medical Center, Pediatrics ED / VHEPC: EMS-Children Case Webinar is next Monday July 19 at 7pm. I will send out more information as we get closer. We would love you all to join and meet your local EMS.

Q: Will there be any kind of surveillance now that mask wearing is clearly less prevalent, and kids <12 as well as ~20% of others remain unvaccinated?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: Just a reminder that there is free summer surveillance testing program that was offered to all the Summer Matters umbrella group which is that wonderful state initiative group, VT Afterschool, spearheaded by Holly Moorehouse, to create more community organization opportunities for young people and they were all offered testing. I do not have an update on how many said yes, but several people have reached out about age cutoff. We, as a pediatric community, had said for self-swabbing

anterior nares, age 8 and up. For kids under 8 and you are in a camp, Dr. Levine's answer was if you have parental permission, and someone to do the swab, that is up to you. I think there will be a bit of kid/child surveillance testing this summer in our summer programs.

Q: Any updates on if VDH testing sites will allow mildly symptomatic people to have testing done?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP: The commissioner agreed that we need access for mildly symptomatic people at the testing sites and was going to bring it back to his testing team.

A: Monica Fiorenza, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics, South: It would be good to have clarity if we can recommend families use VDH testing sites for mildly symptomatic children.

C: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVM Children's Hospital & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: FYI--I just read the VT Digger article, and I do not think I was quoted accurately. I specifically said I *did not* understand why mask use should not be maintained for just one more week until school lets out for this academic year. But that it was a more complicated issue beyond that for summer schools, camp programs, etc.