

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

March 10, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

Wendy Davis, MD, FAAP, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM
Breena Holmes, MD, FAAP, Physician Advisor, Maternal & Child Health, Vermont Department of Health (VDH), VCHIP Senior Faculty

Questions/Discussion

Q: Still having issues getting staff immunized at UVMHC. Told staff that they are no longer vaccinating 1A. To contact VDH. There does not seem to be a path for them to be registered. Any ideas?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Dr. Robinson said to contact Howard Shapiro. It doesn't feel very good that there's not even a plan to double back on 1a vaccinations.

A: Monica Fiorenza, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics South: Tracy Dolan on VPR yesterday said that 1A should continue to reach out to their hospitals, but that now they will need a code to then register on VDH website and that codes should be available by 3/15/21. Frustrating for 1A people that have wanted to be vaccinated in the last few weeks and have not been able to get vaccinated.

A: Stephanie Winters, Vermont Medical Society: That is correct on the codes for 1A. Getting more information.

Q: Are there any changes in recommendations from the CDC or VDH about PPE for healthcare providers who have been vaccinated during patient encounters (masks, surgical masks vs N95, eye protection, type of eye protection, goggles, face shields)?

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: At UVMHC we have not yet changed any policies.

Q: Regarding variant testing, will sending providers or hospitals be notified if (or when?) one of our samples tests positive for a variant? I would be interested to know when it makes it up here.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: The samples that go for that type of specialized testing are coming randomly out of our lab. There's been extra attention to samples at our college campuses. Kids have been a little bit sicker when testing positive for COVID-19, so that might indicate the variant.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: To the best of my knowledge, the data is not sent back to individual providers and is aggregated.

Q: Can you clarify the recent CDC guidance re completely vaccinated adults meeting with one unvaccinated family? 1.) Does that apply to HCWs (e.g., pediatricians who are seeing patients in their office)? and 2.) Does that apply to vaccinated people meeting with only one unvaccinated family group? Sequential visits with multiple unvaccinated families?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: It's definitely all vaccinated people, including healthcare people. Yes, on one day, vaccinated household can gather with one unvaccinated household and then can gather with another unvaccinated household the next day. You're just not putting 2 unvaccinated groups together.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: There are lots of conversations about this – many of which I am not part of at UVMHC. To date, I do not think it applies to the office setting. For question 2: Yes, I have interpreted it that way. I do not remember any language regarding sequential visits. Most of the guidance is on one visit at a time.

*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: I do not believe the CDC guidance applies to workplaces. My interpretation is that sequential visits would be ok. But I think the state guidance is currently a bit more restrictive so not sure just yet how this will be applied here just yet, unless new announcements were just made that I've missed!

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: They did announce in Vermont that we are following the CDC's guidance about vaccinated people gathering. The Governor did say he's going to mention more about gathering on Friday.

A: Ann Wittpenn, MD: Of note, CDC still asking people to do only essential travel...

Q: I am being asked by families about travel guidelines for children traveling with vaccinated adults. Is there any discussion about changing quarantine rules for children after travel?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: No discussion about changing quarantine rules. Children are unvaccinated, represent own COVID spread risk, and cannot travel without quarantine. The lifting of quarantine requirements is really getting at grandparents who have been vaccinated, but not about families traveling when kids are unvaccinated.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: No. They still need to quarantine.

Q: As you can imagine the wasted dose info made people really upset, did he talk about preventing this?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: That was a very strange news article and communication. It's an extremely low percentage of the doses getting wasted. I think we're doing pretty well not wasting doses.

C: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH: There are a bunch of really helpful travel/vaccine FAQ items here: <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#travel>. Same with other vaccine FAQ, quarantine, and gatherings items here <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#vaccine>.

Q: Are all people of color, even school staff, just able to bring their family with them to a school clinic and get a vaccine?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: That's a very good question. I don't have an answer. I think school clinics are going to be very specific to school personnel and not sorting out which caregivers are BIPOC.

Q: How many practices are you looking to recruit for the THINKMD pilot?

A: Jack Long, MD, THINKMD: At this point, there is no limit. As the recruitment progresses, that might change, but for now, no limit.

Q: Can we download the [THINKMD] app to look at it?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: thinkmd.org

A: Jack Long, MD, THINKMD: Yes, go to thinkmd.org to look at the platforms they have used. You won't see all of the questionnaires we have developed, but if you contact me, I can put you in touch with a tech team to take a look.

Q: Do the patients need to sign any sort of informed consent for THINKMD?

A: Jack Long, MD, THINKMD: When they login there's an agreement they'll have to check off as "yes."

Q: Does anyone know about how many kids on average are being diagnosed with COVID-19 per month?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: About 100 per week since January.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM Dept. of Pediatrics: The data will not be clean. However, if we assume that we are roughly seeing 100 cases a day and about 18% of cases are in children, that should give you a rough estimate.

Q: It says even school age children need to be cleared, the hardship if the primary provider doesn't even know they were tested and were positive it is hard for the primary care provided to clear them.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Schools will message to athletes that if they have COVID-19, they need to see their medical home.