

## VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

April 19, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers\*

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### **COVID-19 in VT Children and Youth**

*Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Cases over the weekend in school were single digits. We are aware that is partially due to school vacations, but we are also hopeful it's a trend. As you know, teacher surveillance is ongoing, but less interesting in the context of most teachers being vaccinated. AOE and AHS are thus pivoting to small-scale surveillance testing of students as a pilot in the final six weeks of the year. The Governor will release revisions for the provision of childcare and summer health guidance this Friday, April 23, so we are frantically working to ensure stakeholders get a chance to review prior.*

### **Questions/Discussion**

**Q: Do you have a sense of the recent trends in vaccine uptake in VT? Nationwide, it seems to have fallen off a cliff with many states closing mass vaccination centers for lack of interest.**

*A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I have seen only good news. After each band is added in Vermont there is lots of uptake. It keeps growing. Our older folks are around 80% vaccinated, and in some younger ages the rate of vaccination is around 60% but still rising.*

*A: Nate Waite, RN, VDH: Often the Daily Updates from the Health Department highlight the large number of appointments scheduled on the days a new age band opens. It has been incredible to see how many have been interested in vaccination and are making appointments. The vaccine dashboard is updated Tuesday-Saturday as well. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>*

*A: Elizabeth Hunt, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics: Many colleges are requiring a COVID vaccine for the fall semester. This will help uptake for 18–22-year-olds. <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/11/984787779/should-colleges-require-covid-19-vaccines-for-fall-more-campuses-are-saying-yes>*

*A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: I have noticed the drop in uptake in other States happens when they open to 30+. As Vermont is a little behind others, it would be interesting to see if vaccine appts decrease with the new age groups.*

**Q: Any recommendation for HCPs as to how often we ourselves should be tested for COVID-19, given that we are vaccinated and 30 % asymptomatic?**

*A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: There is no routine recommendation for testing in asymptomatic HCPs who have been vaccinated.*

**Q: What is the interval recommendation between HPV vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine?**

*William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Generally, we try to separate COVID-19 vaccines from other vaccines by two weeks if possible.*