

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

April 23, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers\*

Wendy Davis, MD, FAAP, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM

Breana Holmes, MD, FAAP, Physician Advisor, Maternal & Child Health, Vermont Department of Health (VDH), VCHIP Senior Faculty

**Questions/Discussion**

**C: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: ACIP to conclude their meeting and hopefully issue recommendations, which most folks have said they do expect later today. Some have speculated that there will be a warning label.**

*C: Elliot Rubin, MD: link for live ACIP meeting: <https://www.ustream.tv/channel/VWBXKBR8af4>*

**Q: Does anyone know if chiropractors are supporting patients receiving the COVID vaccine?**

*A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I do not know.*

**Q: Will Proms be held outdoors?**

*A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Proms will follow Vermont Forward guidance. They can be indoors. There will be mathematical gathering requirements based on vaccinated versus not vaccinated. The guidance is coming out this afternoon, so we can include it in the nightly VCHIP email.*

*A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: If they follow Vermont forward, it is hard to imagine that an indoor prom of any size can be held and only juniors/seniors would be able to attend (which itself may seem unfair but is probably ok, since you only have one senior prom).*

**Q: Can they determine if Bell's palsy is related to vaccine?**

*A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Not with a single case.*

**Q: Are schools allowed to ask the vaccination status of students?**

*A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: I do not know specifically. Given that schools cannot ask if children have traveled, I doubt they can ask if they have been vaccinated. We cannot ask medical students if they have been vaccinated.*

*A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Good question, not sure. Probably not.*

**Q: Can anyone clarify the intent of the 100 sq. ft. per unvaccinated person? That does not mean that those individuals are to be in a 100 sq. ft. bubble (i.e. 10 ft. apart). Is that total area with still 6 ft. spacing?**

*A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: I believe it is total area. Just to reduce the density of unvaccinated people who can gather.*

*C: Jenny Anderson, School Nurse, Springfield: It will be tricky to follow the guidance if we do not know who is vaccinated.*

**Q: If we are unable to ask vaccination status, how is the gathering space calculated?**

*A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: I assume everything will continue to follow the honor system.*

**Q: Circular guidelines concerning international travel?**

A: Colleen Moran, MD: CDC website still states more restrictive guidelines around travel and quarantine -- as we have students and teachers/staff returning from both domestic and international travel.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Here is what the CDC recommends for unvaccinated travelers: After you travel: Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. Personally, I think it is riskier to fly to Detroit, MI and then return to VT then spending a week on a beach in Costa Rica. The key difference between VT and CDC is that VT out of state guidelines suggest testing at 3 days and no quarantine, but CDC has testing at 3-5 days and quarantine. However, there is no oversight for either, as we cannot ask students if they traveled.

**Q: Can you share the link where this guidance will be posted?**

A: Colleen Moran, MD: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

**Q: What is the science or thought behind getting rid of masks in an age group that cannot receive vaccines?**

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: The belief that it is low risk to children, and people will make their own decisions about masking around children. There will no longer be state involvement. Parents can assume risk or not for their children, based on their personal responsibilities. The state does not want childcare providers, even if they are private, to make their own decisions about this, even though they can. It is an equity issue. Some people may not have access to childcare, some may have masking requirements, some will not.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Good to know we can immunize teachers, but not expect in-person schooling - but not immunize children - or even mask them - but expect them to attend school. So interesting.

**Q: Is there oversight for staff for overnight camps - who may be the highest risk?**

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Most camps require vaccines for staff, and they can, because they are private.