

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

April 28, 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

Practice Issues: Schools (End of School Year), Camps, Child Care & Out-of-School Time, Breana Holmes, MD FAAP

Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: In terms of regulatory or mandated set of instructions in Vermont, that is not in the guidance for Vermont Forward. It says by July 4th, masks and distancing are encouraged, but if I were the director of a private summer camp, I would be thinking through best practices for Vermont ACCD and CDC guidance on summer camps, both day and overnight.

For a lot of agencies outside of VDH, their guidance is brief, and they are going with honor system and self-attestation of vaccination status. They are following guidance from Vermont Forward.

Questions/Discussion

C: Becca Bell, MD, UVMHC: Easy to navigate link to where the bill is and who to contact
<https://letsgrowkidsactionnetwork.org/legislator-dashboard>

Q: Could some of these people "skipping" their second doses be getting them in pharmacies, so they are not reflected in the state system?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: At this point, we do not plan to change anything in the Vermont overnight or day camp guidance. The CDC guidance needs to address the U.S. as a whole. Vermont case rates are lower and vaccination rates are higher than many areas of the U.S.

Q: Wondering whether guidance might change for mask-wearing outdoors for early education teachers who are vaccinated?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: We asked this yesterday and current answer is NO. Subject to change of course. Vermont is sticking with Vermont Forward regarding mask requirements.

A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: I wish people would do the right thing, but COVID has showed us that they will not unless mandated. I worry for our kids, those immunocompromised, and those who do not respond to the vaccine.

Q: Any thoughts as to what is happening in India after opening following their low levels of illness? Not to be a downer, just alert to risks?

Q: What is the guidance for young (preschool aged) children re outdoors and indoor this summer? I assume the same re mask wearing since they are unvaccinated, but what about outside?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: It will all become personal choice based on Vermont Forward.

C: Becca Bell, MD, UVMHC: We are seeing an uptick in non-COVID viral respiratory illness in the PICU. Still lower than normal winter time but we are seeing rhinovirus and metapneumovirus so that complicates school, childcare, etc.

C: David Nelson, MD, UVMHC: We have also seen adenovirus in the ED.

Q: What are the requirements for masks for kids (and parents attending) for T-ball, little league baseball, etc.?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Currently rec sports (like you mentioned) required masks.

A: Jessica Denton, CHTSW, Timber Lane Pediatrics: We have already had parents at T-ball asking if the kids really needed to be wearing masks. So tricky.