

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

May 14, 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: New CDC Interim Guidance (May 13, 2021)

Dr. Breana Holmes: There has been no decision about masks in adults that work with children. We have communications out to Dr. Levine, Patsy Kelso, and other decision makers. As expected, the CDC announcement needs tons of explanation.

Questions/Discussion

C: I was thrilled to have so many patients' families calling and sending portal messages yesterday asking for our advice about vaccines. Most of our parents and patients seem to be onboard to getting the vaccine. We will continue to try to advocate that they do so.

C: I just returned from Charlotte Central School where the school administrative assistant said it has been a VERY BUSY day with many students leaving for vaccines. So wonderful that the most common side effect is euphoria for the kids (and the parents).

Q: Will there be information sent to schools regarding clarification about the masking at schools?

A: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH: Please know that decisions about masks and adults who work with children (childcare, schools, and summer camp) has **not** been clarified so stay tuned.

C: Colleen Moran, MD, Appleseed Pediatrics: FYI: Also, general trend from parents is they will be less comfortable with kids going to school or camp if masks are not required esp. for unvaccinated children.

C: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Yeah, we have heard that a lot. It is going to get a little messy out there.

Q: Any advice regarding kids who want the vaccine, but parents who do not want it?

A: Sally Kerschner, RN, MSN, Vermont Department of Health: This is a site form VDH on talking points for vaccinations overall: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/immunizations-infectious-disease/immunization/parents>. It may be useful if parents are hesitant.

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I have been told to stop using the word "hesitant" and replace it with "vaccine curious."

A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: These are parents that are a firm no with kids who really want it.

Q: Dr. Levine keeps talking about the kids under age 11 and hinting at fall. Any word on progress for them?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: We hear prognosticators for September for ages 2 or 3 or 6 years and up.

A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: Pfizer is looking to apply for EUA in Sept. I heard at one of the press briefs, it may be earlier, but September likely.

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

Q: Any recommendations on music yet? Wind players in particular? Somehow, I seem to be the medical advisor for the Burlington Concert Band, and summer plans are being devised. We had it all figured out before yesterday's new CDC guidelines!

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: For music at schools, please refer to Ben & Bill's guidance. It has not changed. The only thing written about music is in schools.

A: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH: Current school music guidance:

<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/strong-and-healthy-start-safety-and-health-guidance-for-music-education>

Q: I was also looking for clarification about AAP recommendations to co-administer COVID-19 vaccine with routine immunizations. The message previously was to not have other immunizations around timing of the COVID-19 vaccine (various resources 2-4 weeks on either end) or with most patients being vaccinated for COVID-19 not in PCP office it would not be co-administered by around the same time.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: AAP put a policy statement in place two days ago that encouraged COVID-19 vaccinations with regular immunizations. We have removed the question from the pre-vaccine checklist.

Q: A parent of one of my kids with type 1 diabetes said that when they tried to sign their child up for vaccine online, the website gave a "hard stop" for high-risk condition and said they needed to call provider for permission before scheduling. Is this going to happen for all children with high-risk conditions? Or did they answer questions wrong somehow?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: If people went on to pre-register their child and were asked about a high-risk condition and said "yes," sometimes it said there was not a vaccine yet. Please email me directly at Breena.holmes@vermont.gov, and we can work through that.

Q: It has not been clear as to whether we should continue to periodically test our staff for COVID, as we are all vaccinated. Thoughts? It was not clear the last time Dr. Levine talked about it.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: It is our understanding that surveillance testing has stopped, but we will check on that.

A: Stephanie Winters, Vermont Medical Society: No surveillance testing for health care staff required.

Q: Anyone know about co-administration with Trumenba (Men B vaccine)?

A: Alex Bannach, MD, North Country Pediatrics: I thought it was cleared for co-administration with any vaccine.

A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: Where I work in CT, we have given both together.

A: Becca (Rebecca) Bell, MD, UVM Medical Center: When I listened to the AAP town hall about this, I seemed to gather that physiologically/pharmacologically there should not be either increased side effects or interference with effectiveness/immune response. So, my impression is that co-admin was not tested, it just makes practical sense to be ok with it. I do not know if anyone else knows differently.

A: Elliot Rubin, MD: But Trumenba has had restrictions with others.

A: Alex Bannach, MD, North Country Pediatrics: I am only aware that the two types of Men B are not interchangeable.

A: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: I agree with Alex B.

A: Elliot Rubin, MD: Looks like the co-administration recommendations have been updated

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6909a1.htm>.

Q: Our staff is already asking about not wearing masks around each other in the office, except with patient care. Thoughts? On today's press conference they talked about hospitals and long-term care facilities regarding masking, no medical offices in general. I told the staff to still mask, but they are pushing.

*A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: CDC is very clear that healthcare settings are **not** going to go mask less.*