

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

May 19, 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

Practice Issues: Wednesday's Potpourri, EMSC, COVID-19 Vaccine, Masks, Return-to-Play

David Nelson, MD, UVMHC: We are putting on a once-a-month webinar talking about children in care in the Emergency Department. I will get you this information. The National EMSC Foundation is doing telehealth and helping our hospital providers with direction and information for when they go out on call in conjunction with the UVMHC and their telehealth staff, but we will be branching out to the whole state. We are also going to set up a network in each community of local EMS, local hospital, and pediatric PCMHs to do emergency preparedness for pediatrics with Dr. Davis's help and the AAP, we will be reaching out to many of you to partner with us on these exercises.

Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: If a student gets COVID-19 during June and July and goes back in August for school sports, then the medical home needs to figure out the return-to-play over the summer. The current protocol has not changed per Dr. Flyer. His team is available for any questions, as we continue to figure out what to do.

Questions/Discussion

C: Avery Rasmussen, VCHIP: Please take a moment to complete the following brief survey about the calls:

<https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=4JEDA3MNJT>

C: Nathaniel Waite, RN, Vermont Department of Health: The look and content on the VDH vaccination dashboard has been updated as of today. Includes 12+ info now. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>

Q: Can you put that link in the chat for Zoom?

A: Angela Zinno, VCHIP: AAP Webinar tomorrow: *Becoming a COVID-19 Vaccinator:*

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kYhuqX5Q8mZ5sbuzIR-5w

Q: What concerns me is that we only have 48% of those eligible fully vaccinated. I have been seeing almost everyone unmasked in indoor settings. I think many are confused with what full vaccination means.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: That is an interesting observation, but a much higher percentage of adults are vaccinated. I am hoping that is the explanation.

C: My 14 yr. old was immunized at CVU last night. It was incredibly smooth, organized, and efficient. Kudos to the health department and VT National Guard!

C: Shannon Hogan, DO, UVMCH Pediatric Primary Care: I loved how easy it is for 12+ to get vaccinated now with walk-ins.

C: Alex Bannach, MD, North Country Pediatrics: Absolutely love the school vaccine clinics! Peer pressure in a positive way.

C: Judy Shaw, EdD, MPH, RN, VCHIP: We immunized 90+ 12-15yo at Winooski school yesterday. Great energy and enthusiasm. School nurse, VDH staff, EMS and volunteers all partnering. So proud of VT's efforts.

Q: Is the 9K including 12 and up that go to pharmacies like Kinney drugs?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, Vermont Department of Health (verbally): Yes, I believe so. I can check on that, but, yes, I think we capture that.

C: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVM Children's Hospital & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: We discussed this previously. CDC now has official guidance regarding individuals who got vaccines not currently under FDA EUA but approved elsewhere. As stated, people fully vaccinated with AZ are considered vaccinated without need for additional vaccination.

Q: If given the option between only AstraZeneca or Sputnik V, I would assume someone should try to get the AstraZeneca. Any thoughts?

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: If they have equal access to either, I do not think it is unreasonable to seek out AZ. The clinical trials data for Sputnik V were very strong, but there have been some additional questions raised recently about production. AZ has been one of the most scrutinized vaccines ever and is the most widely used for COVID-19. Specifically, Brazil recently rejected approval of Sputnik V based on concerns about inadequate adenovirus vector inactivation. The official responses from Russian officials did not engender much confidence. Until this issue gets sorted out and there are alternatives available, then I would go with the alternative.

Q: Do fully vaccinated early educators need to be masked when outside with children? Brattleboro's mask ordinance is still in place requiring masks.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: The outside space is hard. Prior to the CDC masking change, you could go unmasked outside if you could maintain distance, but we decided that didn't apply to childcare providers because they never had distance. We are hearing that those local ordinances will go away as soon as there is no longer a Governor's Executive Order.

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: My opinion: it would be supremely unfair to tell elementary school-aged children they need to continue to mask while the grown-ups they rely on for teaching and guidance do not. Let us help the kids out by leading by example.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: agree, but we must be clear that there is no scientific reason for it. For a few weeks, we are sorting out Vermont's personal choice. The field of people caring for children is feeling confused. I will let you know as soon as I hear what the Governor decides in this space.

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Science tells me that there is not a monster under my child's bed, but if it will make them feel safe at night if I check, then science is no longer part of the equation.