VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

November 22, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

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Summary

Monica Ogelby, MSN, RN: If you ever need any help with ordering vaccine, please contact us, ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov. Last Wednesday, the state of Vermont was allocated 5100 doses of pediatric Pfizer. Though not enough, we used those to prioritize upcoming clinics for second doses because we are in the week of second doses. This weekend after talking with the CDC, we were able to get an additional 5100 doses. Everyone should have received an email from the distribution team this morning stating how much vaccine you ordered and when it should be delivered. Everyone who requested vaccine, got vaccine and we were able to give a little bit more this time around. Over 3000 doses were able to go to pediatric providers. Reminder, there is no pediatric Pfizer ordering this Wednesday. The next round of ordering will be on Wednesday, December 1st. Our allocation will be 5100 again. We know it will not be enough but we are trying to get more in advance. There should be no barriers for the 18 years and older to get boosters of the adult vaccine.

Questions/Discussion

Q: Many requests from almost 18 y/o patients with chronic medical conditions or high-risk jobs (EMT and nurse training) who want to get a booster shot and are asking for a letter of support from us. Are other people getting same requests? Seems like a good idea for some of these youth but not approved in their age group.
A: Merideth Plumpton, RN, Vermont Department of Health: It is a question being asked nationally. We have to wait for EUA approval for under 18.
A: I am getting the same question. I am telling parents/patients that they should wait until official recommendation/EUA, not "cheat", but certainly understand their impatience.

Q: An 11 year old was mistakenly given the 12+ dose when age 11. Should the next dose be the 'kid' or 'adult' formulation? This was not in our office.
A: Merideth Plumpton, RN, Vermont Department of Health: The dose should be the age appropriate dose the day of vaccination. This is what CDC says: “If the dose given in error is the first dose, administer the second Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine 5–11 years formulation (orange cap) dose 21 days later”.

Q: We are often only getting 8 or 9 doses from the 5-11 vials. Has anyone figured out any tips or tricks? It is difficult to plan appointments this way.
A: Monica Ogelby, Vermont Department of Health: You are not alone! It depends on the type of needle being used.
A: Merideth Plumpton, RN, Vermont Department of Health: Are you using the syringe/needles that come with the ancillary supply kits?
A: We cannot remove the needles from those, so we are using our syringes and needles, so we can switch out the needle after drawn up.

*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.
A: Merideth Plumpton, RN, Vermont Department of Health: The needles / syringes come with low dead volume syringes. The recommendation is to draw and give with one needle.
A: We know that dull needles hurt more.
A: Monica Ogelby, Vermont Department of Health (verbally): With the ancillary kits that are coming with the vaccine, the recommendation is to draw and give with one needle because of the reduced dead space. We saw at some other clinics this weekend that they have been able to successfully draw up to 11 doses. The EUA does not cover the delivery of 11 doses from the vials. The recommendation is 10. However, the more you are switching out needles it could potentially reduce the number of doses you can pull. We can try to pull together some information that might be helpful, in terms of what we now know, for practices and administrators to get the most out of each vial.

Q: Is there a need for volunteers to administer vaccines? If so, what is the Medical Reserve Corp and do volunteers have to go through that process, as I have heard it is an extensive process.
A: Monica Ogelby, Vermont Department of Health (verbally): The training depends on the skills you are coming in with and the role you are planning to fill. All trainings are self-attestation. The list is pretty small. It is more extensive if you are reading word for word and are out of practice. We have heard from others that it is pretty reasonable.
A: It has been tough for med students to sign up since they have not lived in VT for 5 years. It also costs $25, but it could be reimbursed with a W-9 form.
A: Monica Ogelby, Vermont Department of Health (verbally): If they have not lived in VT for 5-years, a background check does need to happen.
A: Medical students want to help and they get a background check through the medical school.
A: Monica Ogelby, Vermont Department of Health: I can look into if we could accept a background check via the med school. Happily!
A: That would be great. We do two background checks, one at matriculation, and one before they enter their clinical clerkships.

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