

NEW YORK STATE IMMUNIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2025 MEETING

Council Members: Dr. Debra Tristram, Elie Ward, Jennifer Montano, Dr. Gus Birkhead, Alison Singer, Dr. Govind Rao

NYSDOH Staff Members: Heide Reukauf, Aleef Rahman, Kara Connelly, Dr. Vajeera Dorabawila, Michelle Macaraig, Anike Shaw, Sarah Hershey, Kiersten Westbrook, Olga Lawrence, Jeremy Heisey, Kelly Brady, Lyndsey Hoyt, Dileep Sarecha, Maxine Goldberg, Tory Ervin, Deborah Sobieszek, Gia Dublino, Mari Sepowski, Rebecca Domalewicz, Ana Juras, Jennifer Wohlfarht, Ariela Zamcheck, Savannah Henry, Jonnie Martin, Barb Joyce, Aleef Rahman, Tory Ervin, Chelsea Cottrell

NYCDOHMH Staff Members:

Invited Guest: Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-Up
<p>Welcome / Chair’s Remarks: Dr. Debra Tristram</p>	<p>Approval of the March minutes</p>	
<p>Clinical/ACIP Updates Dr. Ariela Zamcheck</p>	<p>Introduction of Dr. Zamcheck a family medicine physician, Director of the Division of Vaccine Excellence Bureau of Vaccine Preventable Disease. Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Director Susan Monarez who was confirmed in July 2025 was recently fired by the Federal Government. In protest, several high-level CDC employees also resigned – Chief Medical Officer Debra Houry, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Director Demetre Daskalakis, and National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infections Diseases Director Dan Jernigan. • In June 2025, the entire 17-member panel of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) was let go and new members were appointed by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. • At the first new ACIP meeting, presentations were given on some topics that many people feel had already been disproven such as preservatives in vaccines and autism. New workgroups were created, some expert liaisons who were invited in the past were not invited. 	

<p>Vaccine Program Update Lyndsey Hoyt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu vaccine annual vaccinations were recommended for all individuals aged 6 months and older but only the single-dose thimerosal free formulation (no multi-use vials). • RSV for infants under 8 months who were born during RSV season, a new monoclonal antibody that was approved by the FDA in June 2025 was approved. Added to CDC guidance was adults 50-59 who are at increased risk of infection. • In May 2025 COVID-19 vaccines were removed from the routine recommended immunization schedule for healthy children and pregnant people. And for children, the recommendation was placed under the shared clinical decision-making category. This change was roundly condemned by medical groups and several made public statements and introduced alternative schedules. The FDA ended the emergency use authorization for COVID vaccines now requiring full authorization for all age groups. The authorization only focused on high-risk individuals, access for healthy people of all age groups is now in question. • It's unclear if insurance plans will continue to cover the cost of the Covid vaccines for healthy children and adults. • FDA ended the EUA for Pfizer's vaccine for children under five, this had been the primary option for children of this age group. Moderna is the option available for kids six months and up but only for those with underlying health conditions as of now. • AAP has published it's own schedule in response. • NYS Commissioner of Health has signed an updated RSV vaccination standing order for pharmacists licensed in NYS. • State is keeping an eye on measles cases, 17 this year with 9 in NYC and 8 in rest of state. 	
<p>Legislative and other Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently NYS public health law and state sanitary code both reference ACIP recommendations. • Meningococcal is referenced in the law, regulations rely heavily on ACIP. • Commissioner of Health and NYC Commissioner of Health sent out joint letter supporting vaccines. • New York State DOH members participating in the Northeast Health Collaborative – many discussions on scientific-based vaccine policy. • We have not heard that insurance will not pay for certain vaccines based on any new ACIP recommendations yet. • Vaccines for Children has to follow ACIP recommendations, it's in the statute. 	
<p>Influenza Update Sarah Hershey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-25 Flu season was a severe season across all age groups. Highest hospitalizations since 2010-11 season. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally there have been 275 pediatric influenza deaths as of the week ending Aug 16. This is the highest number of influenza related pediatric deaths since reporting started in 2004. NYS had 25 pediatric deaths since the as of the week ending May 17. • FDA approved flu mist for self-administration for this flu season. • Flu vaccine was approved by ACIP for all adults, children and pregnant persons. Should be administered in prefilled syringes with no thimerosal preservatives. This eliminates the multi dose vile for this flu season. • For this flu season the H1N1 strain and B strain remain the same and the H3N2 strain has been updated. 	
<p>Vaccine Program Update Lyndsey Hoyt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC continues to offer the RSV monoclonal antibodies on a threshold schedule, ordering opening up every two weeks. • Ordering opened up Aug 1 even though season starts in October to give providers plenty of time to order – especially for babies born out of RSV season. • 6,000 doses have been shipped to NY providers. • NYS continues to engage birthing hospital to enroll in VFC and provide monoclonal antibodies before discharge from the hospital. Outside of NYC we have 75% of birthing hospitals enrolled. • Flu vaccine will be available for VFC and VFA providers through a pre-book. • NYS worked on project to help get flu vaccine to farm workers 	
<p>NYSIIS Update Vajeera Dorabawila</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New in NYSIIS – changes have been implemented to HPV reporting, specifically previously HPV was <i>allowed</i> at nine but now it's <i>recommended</i>. • The objective is to increase HPV rates and monitor data and changes. • MMR Coverage rates 2019-2025, overall rate has increased for older children. • As of 7/1/25 the doses of MMR by 2 years old is 81/1% statewide (range of 89.3-54.7%), for 5-year-olds 89.5% (range of 94.4-67.3%) and for ages 6-18 with 2 doses or more 79.9% (range 89.5-53.1%). • New dashboards for internal DOH that is updated monthly at zip code level. • Also working on a version that will be available to local health departments that hopefully will be available in the Fall. • Looking at various trends there has been an overall increase. 	

<p>New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene Update Dr. Crouch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to see cases of Measles in NYC – nine confirmed cases. • Already seeing RSV in some NYC practices – seems to be an uptick in Brooklyn. Gave permission to VFC providers to give vaccine early if needed. • Cases now seems to be decreasing. • 38 of the 38 birthing hospitals in NYC are now enrolled in VFC. NYC is tracking not only enrollment but if they are administering the vaccines. • HPV reporting changes are similar to NYSIIS, CIR has made changes to the forecasting schedule. • Have run ads encouraging to start vaccinating at nine. • NYC launched the childhood vaccination data explorer in June. Dashboard shows the estimated vaccine coverage for certain vaccines and ages • NYC help map can help people find who is offering flu and Covid vaccines. 	
<p>New Business: Dr. Debra Tristram</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Vaccine Excellence has been working with our public affairs group social media campaigns, working with our consortia partners and coalitions to combat misinformation. • Continue to identify trusted vaccine messengers and partners in the community. • CDC funding updates – all jurisdictions have experienced a funding decrease of between 10-13% for the next 5-year cycle • NYS budget is about 25% less than our 2024 budget • Committee members are interested in helping support the state through letter writing, etc. <p>Next meetings: November 6, 2025</p>	
<p>Adjournment:</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.</p>	