

NEW YORK STATE IMMUNIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2025 MEETING
 12:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Council Members: Dr. Debra Tristram, Elie Ward, Paul Macielak, Jennifer Montano, Dr. Gus Birkhead, Alison Singer, Dr. Govind Rao, Dr. Mary Koslap-Petraco

NYSDOH Staff Members: Heide Reukauf, Aleef Rahman, Kara Connelly, Dr. Vajeera Dorabawila, 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 Zamchek, Savannah Henry, Jonnie Martin, Barb Joyce, Aleef Rahman, Tory Ervin, Chelsea Cottrell, Jason Riegert

NYCDOHMH Staff Members: Bindy Crouch

Invited Guest: Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-Up
<p>Welcome / Chair's Remarks: Dr. Debra Tristram</p>	<p>Approval of the August minutes Welcome to newest member Dr. Mary Koslap-Petraco, pediatric nurse practitioner.</p> <p>Open discussion: Would members like to write a letter of support to Commissioner McDonald stating the group supports pediatric vaccinations and are watching any changes coming out of ACIP in the coming months.</p> <p>The NYS Vaccine Integrity Act is being introduced by NYS Senator Hinchey. Bill would authorize NYS to follow state-level vaccine guidance to protect residents from infections diseases if changes are made to the vaccine schedule at the Federal Level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentions the Immunization Advisory Council in the language but the Council was not consulted. The council is advisory in nature (the legislation that created the Council doesn't intend for it to be a medical entity to be making medical decisions for the State). • Council members will reach out to the Sponsor to discuss the language – council would like to help strengthen the pro-vaccine stance of New York State but don't think they should be referenced as a deciding body. • Wording of legislation is not inclusive of physician's assistants, pharmacists, etc. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentions 21st Century Workgroup for Disease Elimination at the Department of Health – Division of Vaccine Excellence doesn't believe this group still exists. <p>New York State and New York City continue to meet to discuss access plans for VFC if ACIP changes the schedule for any childhood vaccines. There haven't been any changes to insurance coverage for any vaccines as this time.</p>	
<p>Clinical/ACIP Updates Dr. Ariela Zamcheck</p>	<p>Since our last meeting in Aug, ACIP did meet Sept 18-19. Significant votes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMRV given before the age of 4, it is not recommended to give the combination vaccine. • This age group should now receive MMR, and separate Varicella. • Covid vaccine recommendation 65 and older should be based on individual decision making, for all other individuals 6 months-64 again, based on shared clinical decision making with the risk benefit of vaccinations most favorable to those who are at increased risk according to the CDC's list of Covid-19 risk factors. • Hep-B birth dose vote held off until the next meeting. Vote was made that pregnant women should be tested for Hep B (which has been standard practice). The vote that was held was if the vaccine schedule should be updated to reflect the change that if a mother tests negative for the Hep B surface antigen, the 1st dose of the Hep B vaccine should not be given until the child is at least one month old. Infants may receive a dose of Hep B vaccine before one month according to shared decision making. In anticipation of this vote, DOH has been discussing this and launched a social media campaign about importance of Hep B shot. • Another ACIP meeting is set to be in 2025 with no date announced yet. First meeting in 2026 will be Feb 25-26. <p>NYS Department of Health has continued to support Covid vaccinations and has made its own recommendations for different age groups to receive the shot. Information and FAQs can be found on the Department webpage. DOH also supplied patient specific standing orders for each of the vaccine products. The FDA labeling does not align with the ACIP votes and standing orders are required to be written to follow the FDA labeling.</p> <p>There was much confusion on where people can find Covid vaccine and who should receive it. The Department of Health has an email box covid19vaccine@health.ny.gov to help answer any questions from the public.</p>	

	<p>New York continues to participate in the Northeast Collaborative, we will continue to promote strategies to enhance vaccine confidence and will continue to offer Public Health live meetings.</p> <p>Still seeing measles cases in NY, most cases are linked to overseas travel. Monitoring cases across the United States.</p>	
<p>Influenza Update Sarah Hershey</p>	<p>Flu vaccine supply determination was sent out (part of public health law 2112 which references the amount of thiomersal that can be given to pregnant people and children under the age of 3) ACIP doesn't want thiomersal in any vaccines.</p> <p>No reported pediatric deaths from the flu this season. There is a change to the surveillance reports, in the past it had just been influenza and now it is a respiratory report, and it includes Influenza, RSV and Covid.</p>	
<p>Vaccine Program Update Lyndsey Hoyt</p>	<p>There was one ACIP vote regarding VFC. There was confusion at first, the committee voted NO they did not want the VFC program to follow the ACIP recommendations. The next morning they did a revote to align VFC with the MMRV new recommendations. The product is still available for ordering for children over age 4.</p> <p>New products available from the CDC: mResvia which is a RSV vaccine for adults, Enflonsia which is Merck's RSV monoclonal antibody, and PENMENVY which is the GSK 5-in-1 meningococcal vaccine.</p> <p>There were some bumps with Covid vaccine ordering following the ACIP meeting. It was FDA authorized on Aug 27, at that time the previous emergency use authorization was revoked. The Pfizer product for children did not get FDA authorization was no longer available. Moderna Spikvax is the only product available for that age group. CDC did not open ordering until October 6 for VFC population. Ordering for VFC covid vaccine was down 38% to last year. Down 18% of providers who orders. VFC providers are no longer required to stock the vaccines.</p> <p>Flu vaccines were ordered through pre-booking this year. New York State has been examining vaccine purchase and distribution methods if the State decides it wants to purchase vaccines.</p>	

<p>NYSIIS Update Vajeera Dorabawila</p>	<p>Public vaccine access portal is in process (NYS excluding NYC) parents could go in and get their children’s vaccine records using DMV records and phone numbers.</p> <p>Working on metrics updates, Tableau dashboards – internal use to look at zip code levels of vaccine need, trends, vaccines for 2-year-olds, 5-year-olds, and 13-year-olds.</p> <p>4313314 combination series no real change – Statewide 61.5%. Completed HPV coverage completed is still low.</p> <p>Most Covid doses reported so far are through pharmacies.</p>	
<p>New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene Update Dr. Crouch</p>	<p>NYC had a provider summit that NYS AAP cosponsored. First in-person event since COVID. 60+ providers registered, 30+ attended. Focused on early childhood vaccinations up to 2 years old. Topics included federal challenges, vaccine hesitancy and social media. Information will be used to help create an executive summary.</p> <p>NYC launched the Childhood Vaccination Data Explorer. You can select what you vaccine you want to look at and by age and can see trends over time. You can check coverage by zip code.</p> <p>Been working closely with NYS on Covid vaccines, administration and standing orders by registered nurses. Language issues in the regs say registered nurses must administer vaccines according to FDA recommendations (this is problematic for Covid vaccines ages 6 months -64). Ordering for Covid vaccine is down for VFC program. Only about 200 of 1200 providers have ordered.</p> <p>Been examining avenues potentially needing to purchase Hep B for birth dose if needed.</p> <p>Measles – the website is updated with number of individual cases reported (no outbreaks at this time).</p> <p>Working on a CIR modernization of moving information to the cloud.</p>	
<p>New Business: Dr. Debra Tristram</p>	<p>Meetings set for 2026: March 26, 2026 August 27, 2026</p>	

	October 29, 2026	
Adjournment:	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.	