

NMDOH News Brief

IMMUNIZATION



NM Department of Health Immunization Program

Spring 2024 / Issue No. 23

Public Health Day at the State Capitol

Andrea Romero
Immunization Program Manager

Public Health Day 2024 was held on February 12 at the Roundhouse. The Immunization Program was invited to participate again for the second year. The Program handed out educational resources with the most up to date information about vaccines and we also shared information about the Public Portal, VaxViewNM.org, where folks can obtain their vaccination record electronically.

Immunization Program Manager Andrea Romero, Vaccines for Children (VFC) Manager Lynne Padilla, and Health Educator Samantha Sanchez tabled the event. Logistics flowed smoothly as the location of our informational table created a natural segue to the onsite vaccine clinic with whom we collaborated.



Public Health Day 2024
continued on page 5

All-Awardee Immunization Reverse Site Visit Conference

On February 13-15, CDC held an All-Awardee Immunization Reverse Site Visit Conference. This was the first time that this conference returned as an in-person event at CDC Headquarters in Atlanta since the COVID-19 pandemic. All Immunization Programs were invited to attend to hear updates from CDC leadership. New Mexico was one of just a few local jurisdictions asked to provide presentations on model and innovative services, and our team presented twice.

IZ Reverse Site Visit Conference
continued on page 4

In this issue

PAGE

Public Health Day	1
IZ Reverse Site Visit Conference	1
Staffing announcements	2
Shot Briefs: ACIP meeting recap	2
Annual IZ Program Statewide Training	3
Webinar announcement	3
Got Shots 2024 announcement	4
Photo Gallery	5

L to R: VFC Manager Lynne Padilla; Immunization Program Manager Andrea Romero; and VFC Health Educator Samantha Sanchez

Immunization Program

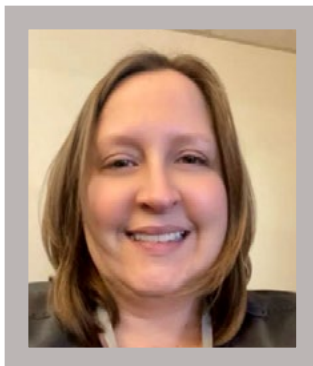
Staffing announcements

Kimberly Orozco, BSN

SW Region Immunization Nurse Coordinator

The Northeast Region announces the recent hire of their new Vaccine Regional Coordinator.

Ms. Orozco graduated from NMSU with a BSN in December 2000 and she has been a nurse for 23+ years in Las Cruces. Kimberly has a background in various nursing fields including Home Health and most recently as a CDI nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces.



Kimberly is most proud of her family. She feels blessed to be mom of two high school teenagers; her daughter is a freshman while her son is a senior about to graduate. In her free time Ms. Orozco loves traveling with her family and she loves *all* things Disney!

Brandy Jones, BSN, RNC

Perinatal Hepatitis B and Adolescent Vaccine Coordinator

Brandy has been a nurse for 20 years and is certified in Maternal-Newborn Nursing. For the past 15 years, she has worked in the ABQ metro area with the antepartum, postpartum, and newborn populations in various roles at a NM birthing facility. Brandy is currently finishing her final term at Western Governors University to earn an MBA in Healthcare Management.



Ms. Jones enjoys reading, traveling, watching football, swimming, and spending time with her husband and two children. She is excited to join the immunization team and can't wait to improve the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program to serve the NM Perinatal population.

Staffing announcements
continued on page 5

SHOT BRIEFS

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA
NM Immunization Coalition

ACIP Updates from February 28-29 meeting

Below is a summary of the votes:

- **COVID-19:** ACIP recommends that persons ≥ 65 years of age should receive an *additional* dose of 2023-2024 Formula COVID-19 vaccine, at least 4 months after the first dose.

- **Chikungunya (travelers):**

Chikungunya vaccine is recommended for persons aged ≥ 18 years traveling to a country or territory where there is a chikungunya outbreak.

In addition, chikungunya vaccine may be considered for the following persons traveling to a country or territory without an outbreak but with evidence of chikungunya virus transmission among humans within the last 5 years:

- Persons aged >65 years, particularly those with underlying medical conditions, who are likely to have at least moderate exposure to mosquitoes, OR
- Persons staying for a cumulative period of 6 months or more.

ACIP meeting updates
continued on page 3

- **Chikungunya (lab workers):** Chikungunya vaccination is recommended for laboratory workers with potential for exposure to chikungunya virus.

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (VFC vote):** ACIP approved the VFC resolution for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis to...

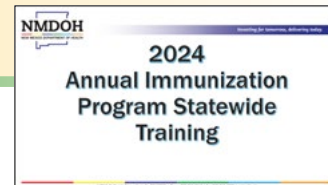
1. Add Td vaccine for use in children <7 years of age for whom receipt of the pertussis component is contraindicated and to,
2. Update the language regarding the Tdap booster to align with ACIP recommendations.

On day two, ACIP discussed RSV vaccines in older adults, pneumococcal, meningococcal, and hib disease/vaccination. There were no votes. Of note, data collected from VAERS, VSD, and CMS claims data suggest a potential increased risk for Guillain-Barre (GBS) syndrome following both Pfizer and GSK’s RSV vaccines for adults 60+. 23 verified reports of GBS were identified within 22 days of RSV vaccination in VAERS. However, at this time, there is not enough data to indicate a definitive increased risk for this age group. A more robust analysis is ongoing. The RSV adults work group continues to support RSV vaccination in older adults, as benefits continue to outweigh risks.

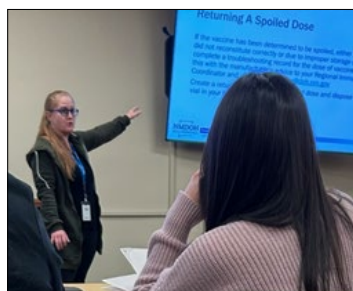
ACIP’s meningococcal work group is considering revising the meningococcal schedule in light of the newly licensed pentavalent vaccine against MenABCWY.

ACIP heard data on the new investigational 21 valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Merck) for adults. The vaccine was found to be well-tolerated with a safety profile generally comparable to currently licensed pneumococcal vaccines.

2024 Annual Immunization Program Statewide Training



In February, the Immunization Program held the 2024 annual provider training in-person and virtually. This year marked the first time an in-person training has been held since the COVID Pandemic. Many topics were covered including updates on NMSIIS, VFC, adult vaccines, compliance, and new vaccines.



*Compliance Coordinator
Scarlett Swanson presenting at
the annual training*

Materials for the training will be available online in the NMSIIS Reports section, or on the [Immunization Program website](#) and click on the “Resources” tab.

Webinar



Please join us

On Wednesday, April 24 join us for an informative webinar on the latest school and childcare immunization requirements and recommended adult vaccines for school staff. The webinar will be held from noon to 1 pm MT via zoom. Register now on this [link](#).

*Sponsored by Comagine Health,
the New Mexico Department of Health, and
the New Mexico Immunization Coalition*

IZ Reverse Site Visit Conference

continued from page 1

The first session consisted of an overview of the National Immunization Survey Integration Project (NIS-IIS), jurisdiction participant perspectives on the project, automation process and troubleshooting of issues, and a discussion on what is next for IIS-NIS integration. The NM Immunization Program first piloted this project five years ago with CDC and has continued to participate each year. The goal of this session was to share with jurisdictions the work uptake that is involved and the benefits their state will have to their Immunization Information Registry. The project evaluates the quality and completeness of data with an Immunization Information System.



L to R NM Immunization Program staff: Vaccine and Outreach Manager Vanessa Hansel, NMSIIS Manager Katie Cruz, Immunization Program Manager Andrea Romero, Compliance Coordinator Scarlett Swanson, and CDC Public Health Advisor Edward Wake.



Vaccine and Outreach Manager Vanessa Hansel at the podium presenting



Vaccine and Outreach Manager Vanessa Hansel on panel, second from left

The second session was a presentation on Adult Immunization Partnerships. Best practices, successes, and lessons learned in building and sustaining partnerships with state programs, community-based organizations,

other public health partners to address adult vaccination uptake, reduce hesitancy, and address vaccine disparities and gaps in access were topics discussed. Real world examples were provided by immunization programs. The NM Immunization Program highlighted the mobile vaccine team, local adult working group with coordination of the NM Immunization Coalition, and partnerships that continue to reach rural areas in the state.

The staff also participated in round table discussions to provide ideas for vaccine equity efforts and usage of funding. The in-person conference sparked a myriad of lively conversations and invitations to jurisdictional meetings.



July 6 - August 17, 2024

This year, the annual Got Shots back-to-school effort will run for six weeks, beginning on Saturday, July 6 through Saturday, August 17! Got Shots clinics will be held at healthcare provider offices around New Mexico. Got Shots provides an ample opportunity for parents and providers to get children up to date on vaccines for school.

Providers, stay tuned for an invitation announcement to sign up to participate!

Photo Gallery

Photos from the Roundhouse at the NM Department of Health 9th Annual Public Health Day

NMDOH mobile vaccination team Adjorker Awusie and Bill Bennett



Two photos above: NMDOH mobile vaccination team table set-up at the State Capitol Rotunda in Santa Fe

Staffing announcements

continued from page 2

Laura Parajón, MD, MPH

Acting Director and State Epidemiologist

Dr. Laura Parajón recently accepted a position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the Deputy Director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) with a focus on Health Equity. She joined NMDOH in January 2021 as Deputy Secretary of Health for PHD, ERD and SLD. Since July 2022, Laura has been the Acting Director and State Epidemiologist for ERD. We wish the best to Dr. Parajón in this next exciting chapter of her career.



Dr. Laura Parajón with NMSIIS Manager Katie Cruz, Immunization Program Manager Andrea Romero at the farewell gathering in Santa Fe.

Public Health Day 2024

continued from page 1

Those who didn't bring their COVID vaccine or flu vaccine cards were shown how to check their vaccination record by using the VaxViewNM portal. Some folks were vaccinated on the spot by the awesome mobile vaccine team.

The turnout was much larger than last year. The NMDOH mobile vaccine team operated from two sites in the Roundhouse and administered fifty vaccinations in a few hours. Attendees were appreciative to receive the latest vaccine information, and that they were able to be vaccinated on-site.

Contact us

NM Department of Health
Andrea Romero
Immunization Program Manager
Phone: (505) 827-2465
Andrea.Romero@doh.nm.gov

immunization.doh.nm.gov
Call or email us for more information about our newsletter or if you have an item to submit for publication.

