

Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) Meeting

January 11, 2024

Chair/Facilitator:

Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett Washington State Department of Health

Members:

Dr. Beth Harvey
 Dr. Christopher Chen
 Charisse Cumpas
 Dr. Gretchen LaSalle
 Libby Page
 Mylinh Nguyen
 Dr. John Dunn
 Dr. Francis Bell
 Dr. John Merrill-Steskal
 Lauren Greenfield
 Dr. Mary Alison Koehnke
 Dr. Mark Larson
 Dr. Stephen Pearson
 Stephanie Stookey
 Tam Lutz

Representing:

Consultant
 Health Care Authority
 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
 Washington Academy of Family Physicians
 Public Health Seattle – King County
 Washington State Pharmacy Association
 Kaiser Permanente
 Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 Washington Academy of Family Physicians
 Childcare Health Program Public Health
 Naturopathic Medicine
 Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
 Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
 Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

Washington State Department of Health Staff:

Jamilia Sherls-Jones	Elyse Bevers	Meghan Cichy	Jessica Tatum
Heather Drummond	Mary Huynh	Amy Sullivan	
Trang Kuss	Jeff Chorath	Katherine Graff	
Meredith Cook	Chas DeBolt	Janel Jorgenson	
Amy Porter	TeriLynn Bullock	Peter Dieringer	

Topic	Presented Information
<p>Welcome, Announcements, Introductions, Land Acknowledgement</p> <p>Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett</p>	<p>Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett welcomed the committee members.</p> <p>Dr. Kwan-Gett did an overview of the agenda and housekeeping.</p> <p>Dr. Kwan-Gett provided a land acknowledgment.</p> <p>Invited us to reflect with stories on tribal generosity and expertise.</p> <p>Dr. Kwan-Gett introduced new advisory members: Charisse Timbol Gumapas, Laruen Greenfield, and Dr. Francis (Frank) Bell.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest</p>	<p>Meghan read the committee’s Conflict of Interest Policy.</p>

<p>& Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Meghan Cichy</p>	<p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p>The minutes from the October 12, 2023 meeting were approved.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett Phillip Wiltzius</p>	<p>Public comments were received during the meeting. As a reminder, the Committee does not respond directly to comments. Members receive comments and take them into consideration during discussions.</p>
<p>Office of Immunization Program Director Update</p> <p>Jamila Sherls-Jones</p>	<p>2024 Office of Immunization Strategic Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect • Forward Plan • Policy: • Vaccine Confidence: • Vaccine Access: • IIS & Data Analytics: <p>The Routine Childhood Immunization Dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been over 1.9 million vaccine doses (excluding flu and covid) administered to children 0-18 years old since the beginning of the year. This is a 2.15% change from 2022. • Cumulative administration in 9-10-year-olds, 11-12-year-olds, and 13-17-year-olds is higher in 2023 than in 2022. • The number of doses administered to 4-6-year-olds is very similar to administration in 2022 and 2021. • Fewer doses have been administered to 0-24-month-olds than the previous two years. At the end of Q4 2023, cumulative administration is 1.74% less than administration during the same period in 2022. • In school age children, there have been increases in all 2023 Q4 months (Oct, Nov, Dec) for cumulative vaccine doses administered compared to 2022 and 2021, except for in 4-6-year-olds for December 2023. • HPV vaccine administration among 9-10-year-olds remains much higher than what has been seen in previous years. • Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard Washington State Department of Health <p>Flu Vaccine Uptake Administered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 2.25 million influenza vaccine doses (or shots given in arms) have been administered during the 2023-2024 season, or just over 28,600 doses per 100,000 people. • This is 5.7% fewer total doses than the number of total doses administered by this time last flu season (<i>2.38 million total doses given by January 7, 2023</i>). • This uptake data includes doses purchased and managed on the commercial market in addition to doses administered through the Childhood and Adult Vaccine Programs. • Similar to COVID-19 vaccines, the week with the highest number of flu doses administered this season was between October 8-October 14 with over 231,000 doses. • This data represents doses reported by health care providers in Washington state, including those given to out-of-state residents. Doses could be a first or second doses of

any flu vaccine. It does not include doses received by Washington state residents outside of the state. It also does not include doses given at federal and some tribal locations. Not all flu vaccine doses are reported to the WAIS - these numbers could be lower than the actual number of doses given in Washington.

Coverage

- Over **one in four Washington state residents (28.2%)** have been vaccinated with **at least one dose during the current flu season**. It is recommended that children receiving their first flu vaccines get two doses.
- This data may differ from other non-DOH published estimates due to differences in data sources used.

RSV Vaccine Uptake

Administered

- The two new types of products available this season (Abrysvo and Arexvy) are available & recommended for adults 60 years and older to prevent RSV.
- Adults may receive one dose of RSV vaccine after discussing with their health care provider if the vaccine will be beneficial. People at higher risk for severe RSV illness may benefit from RSV vaccination.
- The Respiratory Illness Dashboard team is **actively working on adding the uptake data for the RSV immunization for young children to the dashboard**.
- As of January 6th, **8,583 young children have received the RSV immunization**.
- **Pregnant people** may receive 1 dose of RSV vaccine during **weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy**, administered immediately before or during RSV season.
- The **number of doses administered** of the RSV vaccines, or shots given in arms, **during the 2023-2024 season** has been approximately **327,000**, or over **4,150 doses per 100,000 people**.
- Unlike the other respiratory illness vaccines, the **week with the highest number of doses administered** this season was between **October 1-October 7** with more than **24,000 doses**.
- This data represents **doses reported by health care providers in Washington state**, including those given to out-of-state residents. It does not include doses received by Washington state residents outside of the state. It also does not include doses given at federal and some tribal locations.
- Not all RSV vaccine doses are reported to the WAIS, and as a result these numbers could be lower than the actual number of doses given in Washington.

Coverage

- Over **one in six Washington state residents ages 60 years and older (17.3%)** have been vaccinated with **at least one dose of an RSV vaccine**.
- **Coverage for pregnant people is not available** due to the inability to identify pregnant individuals in the data and lack of a denominator. Therefore, coverage data is restricted to people 60 years and older.

Nirsevimab

- Supply remains limited. Additional doses expected.
- Distributed 17,525 nirsevimab doses (as of 1/4/24)
- Administered 8,583 nirsevimab doses (as of 1/8/24)
- CDC advises healthcare providers to return to recommendations put forward by CDC and the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) on use of nirsevimab in young children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants and children recommended to receive nirsevimab should be immunized as quickly as possible. Healthcare providers should not reserve nirsevimab doses for infants born later in the season when RSV circulation and risk for exposure to RSV may be lower. RSV activity remains elevated nationwide and is continuing to increase in many parts of the country. • Nirsevimab implementation lessons learned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Seattle Children’s REACH Residents to conduct key informant interviews to capture implementation successes, barriers, and considerations for next season. <p>Health Education Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory Illness Prevention Toolkit was created to aid Washington state LHJs in educating their communities on a range of respiratory disease related topics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topics include respiratory disease prevention, vaccine promotion, COVID-19, flu, and RSV. ○ Specific messaging for high-risk groups & ready-to-use materials covering COVID-19 and flu, as well as adaptable material (sample social media posts and talking points for LHJ communications) covering COVID, flu and RSV. • The ready-to-use materials within this toolkit are co-brandable, allowing space for LHJs to include their own logos. • Materials are offered in English and Spanish currently, with more languages coming soon. • Contact DOH staff on the toolkit page if there are any questions or additional needs. <p>Association of Immunization Managers Awards</p> <p>DOH honored to receive recognition via the national Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Bull’s-Eye Award for Innovation and Excellence in Immunization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPAE’s Health Promotion and Education (HPE) team campaigns WeConsider & Here for Us were awarded recognition for successfully improving COVID-19 vaccination rates in Black and African American communities across Washington through a community-centered approach. • The Power of Providers (POP) Initiative was awarded recognition for reducing vaccination rate disparities and ensuring community health and safety by establishing partnerships with trusted healthcare professionals across all state regions. • AIM presented the Natalie J. Smith MD Award, the highest form of recognition AIM bestows among past and present immunization program manager to PCH Assistant Secretary Michele Roberts <p>Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jolene Black serving in acting Deputy Director position for Office of Immunization, concurrently with Deputy Director role for COVID Vaccine Program
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Director Update</p> <p>Heather Drummond</p>	<p>COVID-19 Vaccinations in Washington (chart: weekly doses administered comparing past and 2023-2024 COVID-19 seasons)</p> <p>Administered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 1.5million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered during the 2023-2024 season, or just over 17, 880 doses per 100,000 people. • 16.1% of the population are vaccinated with all CDC-recommended doses (Up to Date)

Coverage

- Washington state residents in the ages 65 years and older age group have the highest rate of COVID-19 vaccine completion at **97.2%**
- Coverage for infants in children 6m – 4 years have the lowest coverage for COVID-19 (**13.4% completed**)
- Positive correlation between age and COVID-19 vaccination coverage

New COVID-19 Variants:

12/22/23 CDC Report:

- JN.1, descendent of BA.2.86
- 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine is effective against the JN.1 / BA.2.86 variants
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/whats-new/JN.1-update-2023-12-22.html>
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>

Bridge Program Overview

- HHS Bridge Access program provides free COVID-19 vaccine for adults 19 years and older who are uninsured or under-insured.
- [Vaccines.gov](#): sort available vaccines by Bridge program participation.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Insurance Coverage quick-guide: [two-page handout](#)
- Other activities have included supporting enrollment of independent pharmacies and working with LHJs and other partners to equitably allocated COVID-19 vaccine through the Adult Vaccine Program, with a particular focus on FQHCs.

Pre-filled Syringes, Refrigerated, Pfizer 12+

- 10 pre-filled syringes (NDC 00069-2377-10).
- Must be stored at 2-8C, Do NOT store at ultra-cold or standard freezer temperatures.
- Follow the expiration date printed on the carton.
- Providers can use up existing original Pfizer 12y+ vaccine supply they may have on hand.
- Our [2023-2024 State Supplied COVID-19 Vaccines-At-a-Glance Guide](#) has been updated for your reference.

Vaccination Catch-Up Tools and Resources

- [Job Aids](#) help providers quickly determine catch-up schedule for children, especially with new polio, RSV, pneumococcal vaccines and recommendations.
- Immunize.org's excellent [Cheat Sheet of COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#)

Ramp Down COVID-10 Testing

- DOH will no longer supply at-home Rapid Antigen COVID-19 tests for LHJ partners as we continue to ramp down COVID-19 efforts.
- DOH is partnering with Test and Go to provide kiosks to communities across our state. Fill out [this form](#) and request a kiosk in your community.
- DOH continues to offer the [Test to Treat](#) program.

Watch Me Grow Resources

Our Statewide Hotlines

- Help Me Grow WA Hotline: 1-800-322-2588
- Apple Health for Kids Hotline: 1-877-543-7669

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Food Hotline: 1-888-436-6392 <p>Online Benefit Finder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-referral portal on www.Parenthelp123.org; we contact you within 2 business days <p>Text “WIC” to 96859 Text “FOOD” to 96859</p> <p>Power of Providers Peer-to-Peer Webinars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 12: Post COVID-19 Conditions: Diagnosis and Management Options with Dr. Anita Chopra and Dr. Janna Friedly • February 16: Post COVID-19 Conditions: Expanding Our Understanding of Long-term Sequelae of COVID-19 with Dr. Eric Chow • March 29: Unmasking Long COVID: Insights and Updates from University of Washington Clinical Research with Helen Chu, MD, MPH. <p>Visit the POP webinar page for CE information.</p>
<p>Director Update Discussion</p> <p>Jamilia Sherls-Jones, Heather Drummond</p>	<p>Comments were received & addressed regarding Nirsevimab; DOH received many concerns from providers regarding not getting the doses due to supply constraints and receiving continued communication to distribute. DOH is conducting information gathering & working with Seattle Children’s REACH Residents to better understand implementation successes, barriers, and considerations for next season.</p>
<p>VAC Member Report Out</p> <p>VAC Members</p>	<p>VAC Members reported out on a range of topics & concerns to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSV supply concerns, seeing trends of decreasing demand for RSV. • Barriers regarding vaccination records from out of state & other countries; records indicating patients are far less immunized. • COVID-19 administrations – heading in the direction to become as common & familiar to the public as influenza; how to put out messaging for this to encourage getting both COVID-19 and Flu for upcoming respiratory virus seasons; would combining both help or harm vaccine uptake? • Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine administration to others beyond infants. • Long-term Care populations not utilizing Paxlovid; especially those at high risk. • Hospitals are boarding patients in the ER who are unvaccinated or poorly vaccinated against vaccine preventable illness. • Community Health Centers providing great support & hosting community vaccine events in King County. Mobile teams continuing to help those that are homebound, rate immunization improvement funds supported school nurses & providers with tools to help translate vaccine records from other countries. • Improving communication between pharmacies and clinics for patients under Medicare Part D who are more likely to get vaccinated at pharmacies due to cost effectiveness; some cases of incomplete or no documentation in the IIS due to issues with exchanging data with clinical systems including electronic medical records (EMR) for small practices that utilize; technical capacity of the EMR and the IIS can pose a challenge. • WSPA is working to expand bridge programs and address pharmacy access barriers. Also, would like to understand management of inventory and billing as a VFC provider. • Preparing materials about the bridge access program for tribal nations & making this program more meaningful for tribal communities, as most tribal clinics are not participating.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSV has been in older kids (12-15 months), mixed communication from OBs about who is eligible for what and when.
<p>COVID-19, Flu, RSV Update Tao Kwan-Gett</p>	<p>Disease Surveillance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Department Visits for Viral Illness – US Respiratory Virus Activity Levels (cdc.gov) • Percent of COVID-19 Hospitalizations for Statewide - The percentages of total hospitalizations for COVID-19 in the 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respiratory virus season (3.7 and 4.8 percent, respectively) were lower than the percentage of total hospitalizations in 2021-2022 (16.2 percent) Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard Washington State Department of Health • Rate of COVID-19 Deaths per 100,000 Population Statewide – As of 1/9/2024 there were 30 recorded COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population for the week of 12/24 – 12/20/2023. • Percent of Influenza Hospitalizations for Statewide – As of 2/12/2024 The percentages of total hospitalizations for Influenza in the 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respiratory virus season (2.3 and 3.9 percent, respectively) were higher than the percentage of total hospitalizations in 2021-2022 (0.2 percent) Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard Washington State Department of Health • Percent of RSV Hospitalization for Statewide - As of 2/12/2024 he percentages of total hospitalizations for RSV in the 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respiratory virus season (1.5 and 1.5 percent, respectively) were slightly higher than the percent of total hospitalizations in 2021-2022 (1.1 percent) Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard Washington State Department of Health • Takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urgency of COV is decreasing, but still seeing dozens of deaths. ○ Flu Hospitalizations continuing to rise. ○ RSV Hospitalizations – Similar levels to last season, slightly higher than in the 2021-2022 season
<p>COVID-19 VAC Distribution Janel</p>	<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordering for COVID-19 has leveled out over the past few months with an expected jump in ordering at the beginning of December as providers prepared for the shipping delays of the holiday season. <p>COVID-19 Distribution: Bridge Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 8th, 17% of the total Bridge funding has been spent, equating to \$1.1 million of an available \$6.2 million allocated to Washington state for purchasing vaccines. • Based on current trajectories of how much providers order vaccines throughout the state, the remaining \$5.2 million of Bridge funding is anticipated to sustain Washington through the end of the project. • A total of 13,530 doses have been purchased through the Bridge Program as of January 8th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7,750 of those were Moderna (57%) for \$632,000. ▪ 4,850 were Pfizer (36%) for \$404,250. ▪ 930 were Novavax (7%) for \$54,000. • Of all Bridge doses purchased, 4,170 or 31% have been distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Nirsevimab Supply Update

Remaining Allocation Available Now

- **RSV; 50mg; SYR; 5-pack** – 2,385 doses
- **RSV; 100mg; SYR; 5-pack** – 0

Additional Allocation Expected

- **RSV; 50mg; SYR; 5-pack** – 3,655 doses
- **RSV; 100mg; SYR; 5-pack** – 1,840 doses

Recent Nirsevimab Messaging

- Important to fully use existing nirsevimab supply now to maximize protection against RSV among infants while RSV illness circulates.
 - Use doses when possible, do not stockpile.
 - Use nirsevimab for any eligible baby.
 - Use the vaccine advertisement tool in the WAIS to advertise doses you aren't using, or to search for available doses to transfer. [Find directions on using the tool here.](#)
- Limited Nirsevimab available for ordering now
 - Prioritization for 50 mg product continues to be for birthing hospitals, tribal health clinics, and provider clinics in counties that have yet to receive much product.
 - Prioritization for the 100 mg product will be for provider clinics in counties with no or low supply, and tribal health clinics.
 - Ordering to stay open and processed weekly until allocation is depleted.

Abrysvo through Childhood and Adult Vaccine Programs

- Limited Abrysvo available to order
- Specific for maternal use. Pregnant persons between 32-36 weeks of pregnancy during RSV season.
- Offered through Childhood Vaccine Program for pregnant persons under 19 years of age. Single dose presentation available.
- All CVP providers have Abrysvo order set available in WAIS.
- Offered through Adult Vaccine Program for un-insured pregnant persons 19+ years of age. 5-dose package size only. AVP providers can email WAAdultVaccines@doh.wa.gov to request doses.

VAERS: Vaccine Administration Errors

- Reports of vaccine providers who have inadvertently administered RSV vaccines (Arexvy or Abrysvo) to infants, instead of giving nirsevimab
- **CDC sent reminder, RSV vaccines (Arexvy or Abrysvo) are not approved or recommended for use in infants and young children.**
- Reminder to providers who carry both to be especially diligent in following vaccine administration safety procedures to prevent errors.
- Providers encouraged to promptly report vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) and reach out to CDC at NIPINFO@cdc.gov for further guidance.

How Can the Public Find the Immunizations?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public can locate immunizations by contacting their primary care provider or pharmacy. • The CDC’s Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you website also provides a search function. • Find a Health Center (hrsa.gov) can provide immunizations for those who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children program. • Childhood and Adult Vaccine providers can be found via the Vaccine Provider Locations (arcgis.com) • And Care-a-Van mobile clinics can also be a resource for accessing vaccines.
<p>Future Agenda Items 2024 Vac Meeting Dates Adjourn</p> <p>Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett</p>	<p>XI. Future Agenda Items</p> <p>Next VAC Meeting: April 11th, 2024 (hybrid), July 11th, 2024, October 10th, 2024</p>

