

# MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE AUGUST 2015



Maine Center for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

## Recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National  
Immunization  
Awareness  
Month

(NIAM). The purpose of the observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th century according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



While immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases, vaccination rates for some diseases are not meeting national public health goals. We need to remind people that immunizations aren't just for children and are needed throughout our lifetime.

The National Public Health Information Center (NPHIC) has assembled a NIAM communication toolkit with assistance from CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. The toolkit is designed to help public health information officers, immunization program managers, health care professionals, coalitions, advocates and partner organizations work together to communicate about the important of immunizations during August.

Three messages are central throughout the toolkit:

- Vaccines are an important step in protecting against serious and sometimes deadly diseases.
- Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.
- A strong provider recommendation is one of the best ways to ensure patients get the vaccinations they need when they need them.

Each week of NIAM will focus on a different stage of the lifespan:

[Preteens and Teens \(Aug. 2-8\)](#)

[Pregnant Women \(Aug. 9-15\)](#)

[Adults  
\(Aug. 16-22\)](#)

[Infants and  
Children  
\(Aug. 23-29\)](#)

There is also an abbreviated [“Ready for school” toolkit](#) to help you

communicate about the importance of vaccines for children of all ages before the school year starts.



The toolkits include sample key messages, sample media materials, sample social media messages, and web links and resources. You can also get eye-catching [NIAM logos and banners](#) for each weekly theme to highlight your participation in NIAM and spruce up your social media profiles.

## Find CDC Resources for National Immunization Awareness Month

CDC develops immunization materials our partners can use in local outreach and education efforts during NIAM and year-round.

Below are links to materials you can use during NIAM to

- Encourage parents of young children to get recommended immunizations by age two; reach out with [posters](#), [video PSAs](#), [tweets \[two pages\]](#), [Facebook posts \[three pages\]](#), and more.
- Help parents make sure older [children, preteens, and teens](#) have received all recommended vaccines by the time they go back to school; share information geared toward [parents of 9-18 year olds](#).
- Remind [college students](#) to catch up on immunizations before they move into dormitories.
- Educate [adults](#), including [healthcare workers](#), about vaccines and boosters they may need.
- Educate [pregnant women](#) about getting vaccinated to protect newborns from diseases like [whooping cough](#) (pertussis).
- Remind everyone that the next [flu](#) season is only a few months away.

## Serogroup B Meningococcal Vaccines

In October 2014, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed the first serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccine (MenB-FHbp [Trumenba, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Inc.]) as a three-dose series. In January 2015, FDA licensed a second MenB vaccine (MenB-4C [Bexsero, Novartis Vaccines]) as a two-dose series.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has approved both vaccines for use for people 10—25 who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease. They have not yet been approved by ACIP for routine use.

High risk people include:

- Persons with persistent complement component deficiencies.
- Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia.

- Microbiologists routinely exposed to isolates of neisseria meningitides.
- Persons identified to be at increased risk because of a serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak.

### The vaccines are not recommended for:

- Men B vaccines are not licensed for children <10 years and are not currently recommended for children aged 2 months—9 years who are at increased risk for serogroup B meningococcal disease.
- MenB vaccine is not recommended for persons who travel to or reside in countries where meningococcal disease is hyper endemic or epidemic because the risk for meningococcal disease in these countries generally is not caused by serotype B.
- The vaccine is not currently recommended for routine use in first-year college students living in residence halls, military recruits, or all adolescents. Recommendation for broader use of MenB vaccines in adolescents and college student will be considered separately by the ACIP.

## Dosing Schedule

- Trumenba (MenV-4C)
  - Three—dose series
  - With second and third doses administered two and six months after the first dose.

Bexsero (MenB-FHbp)

- Two—dose series
- Doses administered at least one month apart

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6422a3.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:  
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775  
[www.ImmunizeME.org](http://www.ImmunizeME.org)

