

# KIDSNET UPDATE

RHODE ISLAND'S INTEGRATED CHILD HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM

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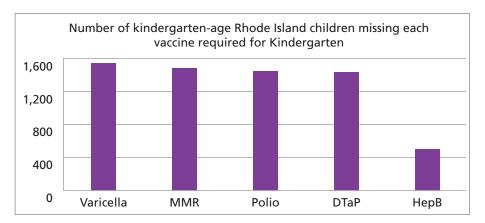
## 2024. Volume 4

## **August is National Immunization Month**

As children get ready to head back to school. August is a great time to catch up on immunizations. Many children do get shots in the summer months as primary care providers work hard to vaccinate their patients. As of the end of July, based on records in KIDSNET for Rhode Island residents who see a primary care provider in Rhode Island:

82.1% of kindergarten-age children in Rhode Island have met kindergarten vaccination requirements (DOB 9/1/2018-8/31/2019).

68.3% of 12-year-olds have met 7th grade vaccination requirements (DOB 9/1/2011-8/31/2012). For seventh graders, HPV is the vaccine that is missing most often. For kindergarteners, doses of varicella, MMR, Polio, and DTaP are all due between age 4 and 6 and are also a school entry requirement. These vaccines account for most of the missing vaccines for kindergarteners.



# **Pediatric Vaccine No Longer Available**

In response to updated guidance on pediatric pneumococcal recommendations issued in June 2023 by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), effective July 1, 2024, Pediatric Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPSV23) is no longer offered through the State-Supplied Vaccine (SSV) Program OSMOSSIS ordering system.

The SSV Program will provide Prevnar20 as the only pneumococcal pediatric vaccine needed to treat invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in babies and children. KIDSNET already reflects accurate "next due" and "past due" recommendations regarding this change.

#### **Asthma Referrals**

The Green and Healthy Homes Initiative of Rhode Island has launched their Healthy Providence Healthy Homes Program. Through this program, Providence residents who have a child with asthma can receive free home assessments, home interventions, and asthma education to reduce asthma triggers. See https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/services/providence/ for more information or contact Anabel Espinal, Client Intake Specialist, at aespinal@ghhi.org.

- https://health.ri.gov/publications/brochures/Healthy-Providence-Healthy-Home-Program.pdf
- https://health.ri.gov/otherlanguages/spanish/publications/brochures/ Healthy-Providence-Healthy-Home-Program.pdf

Primary care offices can use the Asthma page in KIDSNET for additional referral options such as:

- Home asthma visitation
- Cool It Off
- Breathe Easy at Home (BEAH)

# St. Joseph's Health Center Immunization Clinic Closes

Effective July 1, 2024, St. Joseph's Health Center Clinic stopped providing walk-in immunization and lead screening services. Asthenis Public Health Hub at 206 Cranston St., Providence, will now offer the same services that St. Joseph's Health Center Clinic was offering. Uninsured children, insured children without a primary healthcare provider, adults without health insurance (uninsured) who need vaccines to attend school or work, and adults with health insurance who are unable to pay all or some costs for vaccines for school or work (underinsured) are eligible. All immunizations administered there will be reported to KIDSNET and can be accessed on the "Immunizations Submitted to KIDSNET By Other Providers" report.

To make an appointment for immunization or lead screening at the Asthenis Public Health Hub, call 401-473-3958, or visit Asthenis Public Health Hub.

Walk-In Hours: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.)

**Note:** You must make an appointment for varicella and MMR vaccinations.



Before the start of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season, we want to emphasize the importance of timely reporting of RSV-mAb doses to KIDSNET/RICAIR as a vaccine. RSV-mAb is distributed under the Immunization and SSV programs, and accord-

ing to CDC and ACIP guidelines, RSV-mAb must be reported to the registry as a vaccine despite being classified as a treatment.

Please ensure that your practice and/or EHR vendor is reporting RSV-mAb as a vaccine to KIDSNET/RICAIR. Failure to report RSV-mAb doses to KIDSNET/RICAIR on time and as a vaccine can pose patient safety risks, compromise public health surveillance, and delay order forecasting. Accurate reporting is essential for effective disease prevention and control strategies.

For any questions, please contact the RICAIR onboarding team at RIDOH.RICAIROnboarding@health.ri.gov. As always, thank you for your commitment to accurate immunization data and the well-being of the community.

Immunization and SSV programs, and according to CDC and ACIP guidelines, RSV-mAb must be reported to the registry as a vaccine despite being classified as a treatment.

# WIC Updates: Closure of Tri-County WIC and Restoration of **Missing Measurements in KIDSNET**

Tri-County Community Action Agency's WIC program permanently closed as of May 31, 2024. The program, which was located at Tri-County's Harvard Avenue location in Johnston, regularly assisted nearly 800 WIC recipients and their work and outreach will be greatly missed by the community. Before they closed. Tri-County WIC worked diligently to transfer established clients to other WIC locations to ensure a smooth continuation of services. New WIC locations have since been updated in KIDSNET for families that have transferred to another program. For more information about the closure as well as locations accepting referrals, visit health.ri.gov/wic.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the data export from WIC to KIDSNET originally excluded critical measurements and was subsequently redeveloped. All missing height, weight, and blood test data have now been fully restored onto KIDSNET.

# Retirement

Please join us in wishing Kathy Marceau a happy retirement! Kathy has been such a valuable member of the Immunization Team for 25 years it is hard to imagine how we will get by without her! Not only has she served as the unofficial "welcoming committee" to new employees and as a liaison to school nurse teachers, Kathy, has also acquired an incredible wealth of knowledge regarding the Recommended Immunization Schedule and, of course, more recently became a refrigeration/freezer temperature expert! We have no doubt that school nurse teachers, primary care office managers and staff, as well as her colleagues here at RIDOH will feel her absence when she retires at the end of August. Until her position is filled, please feel free to reach out to the Immunization Program for assistance. We wish Kathy nothing but the best for a very well-deserved retirement.



