



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2016

Dear Urgent Care Medicine Provider,

In Michigan, we are concerned with our low immunization rates for children, adolescents, and adults. We are reaching out to you to increase your role in the immunization neighborhood. Urgent care medicine has a unique role in assisting with increasing vaccination rates, in that your setting offers a convenient way to reach patients and their families in places where they already are. In the enclosed "snapshot," important Michigan information and trends in data demonstrate the increasingly critical function that urgent care centers and walk-in clinics play in immunizing patients.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is encouraging all healthcare professionals to make immunizations a standard of routine patient care by integrating four key steps:

- 1) **ASSESS** the immunization status of all your patients at every encounter. Stay up-to-date with the current vaccine recommendations. You should utilize the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) to assess patients' vaccine history and determine vaccine needs.
- 2) Strongly **RECOMMEND** vaccines that patients need. Key components of this include tailoring the recommendation for the patient, explaining the benefits of vaccination and potential costs of getting the diseases they protect against, and addressing patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language.
- 3) **ADMINISTER** needed vaccines or **REFER** your patients to a provider who can immunize them. It may not be possible to stock all vaccines, so refer your patients to other known immunization providers in the area to ensure that they get the vaccines they need to protect their health. Coordinating a strong immunization referral network will reduce a substantial burden on your patients and your practice.
- 4) **DOCUMENT** vaccines received by your patients. Help your office, your patients, and your patients' other providers know which vaccines they have had by documenting in MCIR.

Michigan's immunization registry, MCIR, should be utilized to track all vaccines administered in Michigan. By law, providers are required to report ALL immunizations administered to every child less than 20 years of age within 72 hours of administration. Adult vaccination data entry is strongly recommended to ensure continuity of care.

For additional information on immunizations, visit www.michigan.gov/immunize or www.cdc.gov/vaccines. For information on MCIR, visit www.mcir.org or contact your MCIR regional office at www.mcir.org/providers/contact-regions/.

Immunization updates are beneficial to all staff who administer vaccines. If your office would like information on how to schedule free continuing education sessions, contact Carlene Lockwood at 517-284-4884 or LockwoodC@michigan.gov.

We look forward to working with all of you to protect more Michiganders from serious diseases through vaccination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Swanson".

Robert Swanson, MPH
Director, Division of Immunization
Enclosed: Michigan Vaccination Snapshot: Urgent Care

Michigan Vaccination Snapshot **URGENT CARE**

Urgent care medicine has a unique role in assisting with increasing vaccination rates, in that your setting offers a convenient way to reach patients and their families in places where they already are. In this snapshot, important Michigan information and trends in Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) data demonstrate the increasingly critical function that urgent care centers and walk-in clinics play in immunizing patients. More and more, urgent care medicine is supplementing the efforts of the medical home with vaccination at an accessible, affordable, and timely location. While treating symptoms of acute and chronic illness, take a moment to assess vaccination needs of your patients.

Did you know?



1 out of **4** children 19 through 35 months of age are not up-to-date for the primary vaccine series



3 out of **4** adolescents 13 through 17 years of age are not up-to-date for their adolescent vaccines



3 out of **4** adults 18 years of age or older did not have an influenza vaccine reported to the MCIR last flu season

Michigan has low vaccination coverage, leaving children, adolescents, and adults susceptible to potentially serious diseases.

For more Michigan data: www.michigan.gov/immunize → Local Health Departments → County Immunization Report Cards

Urgent care medicine has an increasing role in immunization.

Nationally, urgent care is experiencing a rapid increase. [UCAOA](#) predicts a growth of 600 urgent care facilities per year. The ability to provide a range of services on a walk-in basis along with evening/weekend operating hours makes these centers a very convenient option as vaccination providers.

In Michigan there has been a 59 percent increase in the number of facilities reporting vaccines to MCIR and a 105 percent increase in total doses reported to MCIR in the past 5 years ([Table 1](#)).

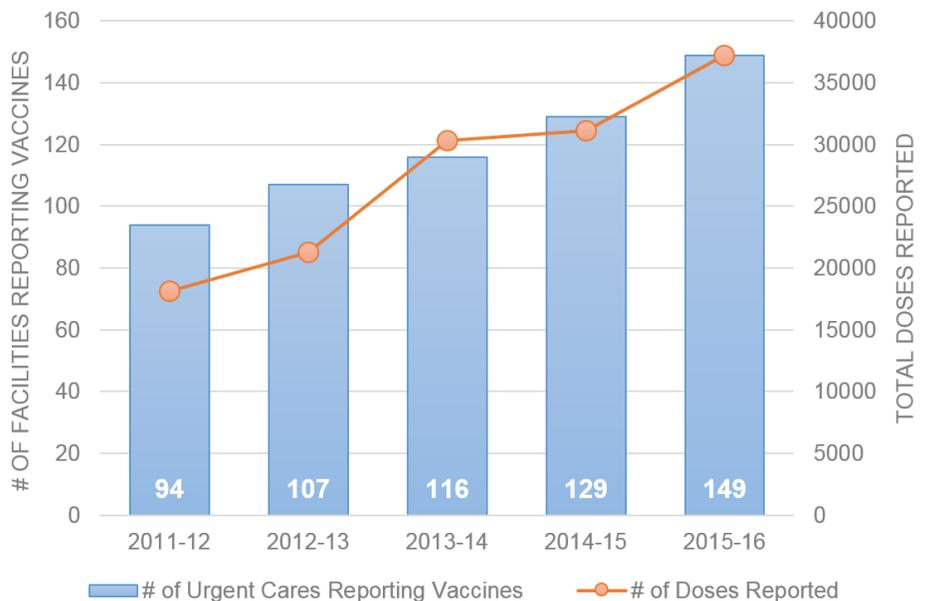


Table 1. Five year trends of urgent care center vaccines in MCIR.

Michigan Vaccination Snapshot

URGENT CARE

Urgent care centers see patients across the lifespan; however, a majority of the vaccines reported to MCIR are administered to adults. From June of 2011 to July of 2016, there was an increase in the total doses recorded in MCIR by urgent care centers across all adult age categories (Table 2).

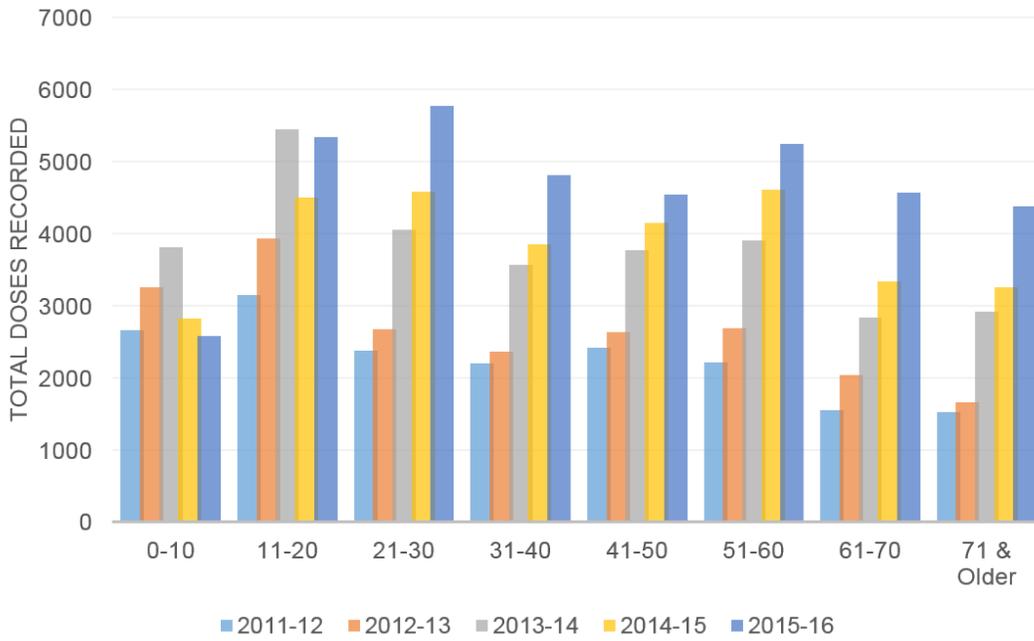


Table 2. Urgent care doses reported in MCIR by age group, June 2011 to July 2016.

For More Information

MDHHS, Division of Immunization
www.michigan.gov/immunize

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
www.cdc.gov/vaccines

To Order Immunization Materials

MDHHS Clearinghouse
www.healthymichigan.com

Alliance for Immunization in Michigan
www.aimtoolkit.org

For Training and Assistance

Michigan Care Improvement Registry
www.mcir.org

Local Health Departments
www.maliph.org/directory

MDHHS is calling on all healthcare professionals to make immunizations a standard of routine patient care in their practice by integrating four key steps:

- 1) **ASSESS** immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter. This involves staying informed about the latest CDC recommendations for immunization and implementing protocols to ensure that patients' vaccination needs are routinely reviewed. Remember to utilize MCIR in assessing the immunization status of your patients.
- 2) Strongly **RECOMMEND** vaccines that patients need. Key components of this include tailoring the recommendation for the patient, explaining the benefits of vaccination and potential costs of getting the diseases they protect against, and addressing patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language.
- 3) **ADMINISTER** needed vaccines or **REFER** your patients to a provider who can immunize them. It may not be possible to stock all vaccines in your office, so refer your patients to other known immunization providers in the area to ensure that they get the vaccines they need to protect their health. Coordinating a strong immunization referral network will reduce a substantial burden on your patients and your practice.
- 4) **DOCUMENT** vaccines received by your patients. Help your office, your patients, and your patients' other providers know which vaccines they have had by documenting in MCIR. And for the vaccines you do not stock, follow up to confirm that patients received recommended vaccines.