

June 21, 2021

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Michigan Medicaid Providers:

The purpose of this letter is to notify providers about the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) efforts to improve immunization rates for pediatric and adolescent patients. This is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccinations.

Given the decline in routinely administered vaccination rates since the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need to protect pediatric and adolescent patients from several vaccine-preventable diseases, such as meningococcal meningitis, measles, and pertussis. For everyone's safest return to both school and other activities, it is imperative to ensure that everyone is up to date on all recommended vaccines.

The attached memorandum was recently released by the MDHHS Division of Immunization's staff to encourage and support provider offices with strategies to increase the administration of vaccines to your patients. Please distribute the attached memorandum to your healthcare partners, including all immunizing providers in your area.

Thank you for the hard work with efforts to protect Michiganders from vaccine-preventable diseases.

An electronic version of this document is available at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders
>> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,



Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration

Attachment



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 2021

TO: Michigan Healthcare Providers

FROM: Terri Adams, RN, BSN, MM *TSA*
Interim Director, Division of Immunization

SUBJECT: Help Children and Adolescents Get Caught Up on Recommended Vaccines

Urgent Action Needed:

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted both in-person learning and routine well-child visits for many children over the last year. As a result, Michigan has seen and continues to see a sharp decline in vaccination rates for both pediatric and adolescent populations. The downward trend for routine vaccination has continued through 2021 and has the potential to result in a resurgence in vaccine-preventable diseases, such as meningococcal meningitis, measles, and pertussis (whooping cough). For the safest return to both school and other activities, it is imperative to ensure that everyone is up to date on **all recommended vaccines**. We must be vigilant with vaccinating against all vaccine preventable diseases.

MDHHS Immunization Call to Action: Below are strongly recommended strategies from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), Division of Immunization:

- Notify and schedule annual physical exams, required MHSAA sports participation visits, and other medical visits for school-aged patients.
- Focus efforts to send recall letters using the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), and/or EHR messages to patients that are behind on vaccines (instructions are [here](#)). Some recommended age groups are:
 - Children (4 - 6 years old)
 - Adolescents (11-13 years old)
 - Older Adolescents (14-18 years old)
- Identify and contact patients that are due/coming due for a vaccination, (e.g. use of the [MCIR QI reports](#). For guidance on generating the Michigan QI reports, [click here](#)).

- Offer convenient appointments, including nurse-only & vaccine-only visits for working parents and adolescents (such as times that are later into the evening and on weekends).
- Create and use [standing orders](#) for the nurse-only and vaccine-only appointments (guidance on implementing standing orders can be found [here on the IAC website](#)).
- Consider partnerships for school immunization clinics, offering vaccines to students, staff, and the community (in-person or mobile units).

Michigan vaccinating providers have the opportunity to get everyone back on track with all immunizations and protected from vaccine preventable diseases. You have an important role and are appreciated; we continue to need your help with these efforts.

Thank you.