

# Vaccinate Vermont

## Hepatitis B Vaccine Schedule

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Health care providers, including school nurses, can analyze children's immunization records using data from electronic medical records (EMR). Calls to the Vermont Immunization Program indicate that hepatitis B vaccine is most commonly flagged as "outside of the recommended schedule," and providers are seeking guidance.

The Immunization Program supplies hepatitis B (hep B) vaccine as both a monovalent (Engerix) vaccine, and in combination with DTaP and IPV (Pediarix). Switching between combination and single-antigen vaccines poses no problem as long as the recommended minimum interval between doses and the minimum age for all vaccines is maintained.

Combination vaccines have been found to enhance parental acceptance of vaccination, simplify administration, and help to improve vaccination coverage in the community. However, the disadvantage of combination vaccines is that individual antigens within the vaccine can have different minimum intervals between doses and age of administration. Also, some children may receive extra vaccine doses (a practice Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [ACIP] considers acceptable).

The ACIP recommended schedule for hepatitis B vaccine for infants consists of a monovalent birth dose, followed by 3 doses of either Pediarix at age 2, 4 and 6 months for a total of 4 doses, or 2 additional doses of monovalent vaccine at 1 - 2 months and at 6 months, for a total of 3 doses.

The minimum spacing between doses is included in the ACIP recommendation for that



vaccine [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm). An extensive listing of recommended and minimum intervals and ages for vaccination can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf)

Infants not receiving a hep B birth dose should be vaccinated as soon as possible following these minimum interval and age requirements:

Min. interval between doses 1 & 2 is 4 weeks  
 Min. interval between doses 2 & 3 is 8 weeks  
 Min. interval between doses 1 & 3 is 16 weeks  
 Minimum age for dose 3 is 24 weeks

ACIP determined that vaccine doses administered up to 4 days before the minimum interval or age can be counted as valid (4-day rule).

If a dose was administered five or more days earlier than the recommended minimum interval between doses, it is not valid and must be repeated. The repeat dose should be spaced after the last valid dose by the recommended minimum interval. Likewise, doses administered five or more days before the minimum age should be repeated on or after the patient reaches the minimum age, and four or more weeks after the last valid dose.



Tdap for every pregnancy.

*Tdap vaccine recommended for pregnant women with every pregnancy.*

## Tdap for every pregnancy

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently updated recommendations for Tdap in pregnancy. The provisional recommendations were posted on December 6, 2102, and are provided below:

On October 24, 2012, the ACIP voted to recommend tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for pregnant women with every pregnancy irrespective of previous Tdap history.

**Updated recommendation:** ACIP recommends that providers of prenatal care implement a Tdap im-

munization program for all pregnant women. Health care personnel should administer a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy irrespective of the patient's prior history of receiving Tdap.

**Guidance on use:**

To maximize the maternal antibody response and passive antibody transfer to the infant, optimal timing for Tdap administration is between 27 and 36 weeks gestation. For women not previously vaccinated with Tdap, if Tdap is not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum.

All adult primary care providers and reproductive health providers are invited to enroll in Vaccines for Adults. Enrolled providers order state supplied Tdap and other routinely recommended vaccines (at no out of pocket cost) for people aged 19 years and older. To enroll, complete and submit the form found in the provider information section of the website:

[www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/documents/VFC\\_VFA\\_Enrollmentform.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/documents/VFC_VFA_Enrollmentform.pdf)  
For additional provider information: [www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/provider.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/provider.aspx)

## IMR—Use the Immunization Registry to identify 13-17 year olds who have not received Tdap

Are you familiar with the "not up-to-date" feature of the Immunization Registry (IMR)?

Here are 3 easy steps you can take to create a not up-to-date report for Tdap (or other vaccines) from the IMR. This feature allows you to identify and recall those patients who have fallen behind on immunizations. The IMR is found on the VDH website [www.healthvermont.gov/hc/IMR/index.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/IMR/index.aspx)

**Step 1:** Go to the "Practice Reports" menu on the left

side and select "Not up to date report."

**Step 2:** Enter the patient birth start and end dates for the population you want the report on. If you are trying to identify all those 13-17 years who haven't received Tdap, you would enter 1/1/1996 - 1/1/2000.

**Step 3:** While on this screen, a report and/or labels can be printed. Choose "create labels" to print mailing labels to recall those patients who haven't received Tdap.

You may run not up to date reports for any age group, but larger practices may need to break the report down into smaller requests. If the report "times out" you may need to run the report for 13-15 year olds, then 16-17 year olds.

If you have questions contact IMR User Support at (888) 688-4667 or via e-mail at [imr@state.vt.us](mailto:imr@state.vt.us)

Log On to the Registry



Immunization Registry

## Ask the Experts – Vaccines Exempt from 28 Day rule

Currently, vaccines are exempted from the Joint Commission's 28-day rule, which says that unused prescription drugs in multi-dose vials should be discarded 28 days after opening or puncture, but not for vaccines. The CDC states that vaccines are to be discarded per the manufac-

turer's expiration date. The Joint Commission is now applying this approach to all vaccines (whether a part of CDC's vaccine program, state immunization programs, or purchased by health care facilities) with the understanding that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately. Follow-

ing the guidelines provided in the package insert is important to ensure integrity of the vaccine.

For more details on The Joint Commission's policy: [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

For more details on vaccine storage and handling, go to: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)



Ask The Experts!

## VTrckS- The 5 most common questions

### I've tried to log in and am locked out of my account. What do I do?

After three failed attempts to log in, you will be locked out of your account for one hour. If after waiting one hour you are still not able to log in, please contact the Vaccine Order Management Contact Center at (877) 877-6247 for log-in related assistance.

### How do I confirm that my supporting documents were submitted?

To finalize each supporting document, click **Submit** (versus *Save*) and receive a

confirmation number. You can search for supporting document submissions through the Universal Search function on the home page.

### Is there a way to view an order after it has been submitted?

Yes. Click on the *Order ID* to view the last 15 orders.

### What if I make a mistake in my order?

Every vaccine order is carefully reviewed by the Vermont Immunization Program to meet federal requirements regarding accountability of publicly

funded vaccine. Please contact us immediately (802) 863-7638 if you believe you made an error.

### How do I report expired or wasted vaccine?

Step by step instructions to complete expired, wasted and transfers are located on the Health Department website (see below). Expired vaccines are reported under the *vaccine return* category, as they are 'returned' to McKesson.

Information can be found at: [www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/VaccineTrackingSystemVTrckS.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/VaccineTrackingSystemVTrckS.aspx)

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*After three failed attempts to log in, you will be locked out of your VTrckS account for one hour.*

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## In Brief—Pertussis in Vermont

In 2012, there were a total of 632 pertussis cases reported in Vermont, compared to 93 reported cases in 2011 and 18 reported cases in 2010. 29 (4.6%) of the cases occurred in children less than one year of age. The 10-14 year age group had the highest num-

ber of confirmed cases, and Rutland County had the highest number of confirmed cases. Over 3,200 people were vaccinated against Tdap during the free statewide clinics held on December 19, and providers are continuing to promote Tdap vaccinations at the

medical home. These vaccination efforts should contribute to a decrease in pertussis in the months and years to come.

[www.healthvermont.gov/prevent/pertussis/surveillance.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/prevent/pertussis/surveillance.aspx)



Pertussis.

## It's Ok to Ask—A Public Education Campaign

A top priority for the Vermont Department of Health's Immunization Program is to increase the number of children who are fully vaccinated according to the ACIP recommended schedule. The Immunization Program, in partnership with hmc2, a Vermont-based advertising agency, is developing a communications effort targeting vaccine-hesitant parents with young children.

"It's Ok to Ask" is an educational campaign that provides information and support to help transform a parent's hesitancy about vaccines into confidence. Since parents seek out health-related resources online, a new microsite will be the central hub of information about the risks and benefits of vaccines. The website will also become a valuable tool for doctors and nurses as they communicate with parents to address questions.

This is a place where parents can go to find balanced, easy to understand information explaining the risks and benefits of vaccines. Local pediatricians and nurses will provide answers to common questions asked by parents who are expecting or have young children.

Our target audience fits the following description:

- Age 30 +, college educated, middle to upper income.
- Parents who are expecting a baby or have children ages 2 and under.
- Other people who advise parents including grandparents, relatives and friends.

Since the target audience is more likely to believe the message if it comes from someone like them, we have also developed a social media plan that includes channels like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. In addition, broadcast television and web videos will be developed to support and enhance the online information campaign.

The website will be organized by section, including:

- **INFO** — detailed information about vaccines, the diseases that vaccines prevent and the issues surrounding immunizations in Vermont.
- **ASK** — a place where parents can ask specific questions and get answers from local doctors and nurses.

A detailed immunization schedule for children in Vermont will be featured on the site, along with an interactive timeline that displays the history of vaccines from 1721 to the present day.

Short videos of Vermont women discussing immunization-related topics with a local pediatrician will be embedded in the website. These videos illustrate several common conversations that pregnant women have with their child's health care provider.

Clips of these videos will be used to promote the campaign both online and on television media for several months following the campaign launch.

Parents are invited to email questions that will be answered by local health care providers.

We are looking for volunteers (nurses and physicians) to provide written responses to these questions. If you are interested please contact Shari Levine at the Immunization Program, [shari.levine@state.vt.us](mailto:shari.levine@state.vt.us).



Its Ok to Ask.



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[healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/index.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/index.aspx)