Massachusetts Department of Public Health

MDPH Tuesday Infectious Disease Webinar Series

Tools for Local Boards of Health

September 12, 2023

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Agenda September 12, 2023

• Casework Prioritization

• COVID-19 Vaccines (In Progress!)

• Immunization Assessment Unit: Elizabeth Russo, MD
  • School Immunization Requirements: Enforcement
  • Every Student Succeeds Act
  • School Immunization Survey: Schedule & Updates
  • Vaccine Access Project: LBOH Survey

• Guest Presentation: Anthony Osinski, MPH, Hepatitis C Surveillance Coordinator
  • Acute Hepatitis C Investigations For Local Boards of Health
2023 Infectious Disease Tools for LBOH Webinar Schedule!

- You help us identify topics, needs, & content!
- Be sure to send ideas, requests, and questions to Hillary and Scott!

MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

2023 Upcoming Schedule!

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<td>2nd Tues 12/12/23 2023 MAVEN Wrap Up &amp; Review</td>
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*No December 2023 Office Hours

Next Office Hours: Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Updates – A quick recap for September 12, 2023

We Last Met August 8, 2023:

- Maven Updates & Reminders
  - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Updates
    - Ryan Burke, MPH
  - Sequencing Question Package #9 Review
    - Carolyn Casiello, MPH and Meagan Burns, MPH
  - Occupational Health: Updates for Industry and Occupation
    - Angela Laramie, MPH

- Food and Waterborne Infections Team Updates
  - Cyclospora Season 2023 Update
  - Foodborne & Waterborne Outbreak Needs Assessment Survey – Your Feedback is Needed!
    - Geena Chiumento, MPH

- Guest Presentation:
  - Introduction to Hepatitis A Case Investigations
    - Lindsay Bouton, MSc, Hepatitis A and B Surveillance Coordinator

Always Remember you can see recent webinar recordings and slides in MAVEN Help.

Bookmark the URL!
Infectious Disease Casework & Prioritization

• Reminder that MDPH expectations for comprehensive COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing at the local level for all individual cases were discontinued in December 2021.

  • AKA: The LBOH provides control recommendations and support as needed and advises on implementation of COVID Isolation and Exposure guidance.

  • LBOHs are no longer required to document/chase down each individual case and contact in these high-priority settings.

  • **October 10, 2023: Tools for Local health Webinar** will focus on Respiratory Illness Season and will review current guidance for COVID-19. Be sure to register!

    • Be sure to send us your questions or thoughts ahead of time!
Infectious Disease Casework & Prioritization

• Staff that were previously focused on COVID-19 can assist with other infectious disease case investigation and provide support to public health nurses who are busy this season with nursing activities (vaccine clinics, migrant health activities, etc.).

• Particularly if you are part of shared services arrangements or the COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Grant (RFR 223127), look to your partners or your additional staff (contact tracers, epidemiologists, health agents, etc.) to share the workload and ensure MAVEN and infectious disease coverage in your communities.

  • **RFR 223127 (CI/CT Grant):** Scope of Services was revised in Spring 2023 to address response to **ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES** (not just COVID).

  • Funded staff such as Contact Tracers and Epidemiologists should work on other infectious diseases (beyond just covid) and local jurisdictions can utilize them for other core local health activities.
What’s Up with COVID-19 Vaccines?

• The ACIP meets today (September 12, 2023) as the next stage. The FDA approved and authorized for emergency use the new updated COVID-19 vaccine.
  • ACIP will provide more detail and clinical guidance. So stay tuned.
  • Some Highlights:
    • “Updated Vaccine,” not a booster.
    • “Monovalent” mRNA vaccine for 2023-2024 (Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech)
      – updated to include a monovalent (single) component that corresponds to the Omicron variant XBB.1.5.
      – The bivalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the United States.
    • Barring the emergence of a markedly more virulent variant, the FDA anticipates that the composition of COVID-19 vaccines may need to be updated annually, as is done for the seasonal influenza vaccine.
School Immunization Requirements: Enforcement

• MDPH issues immunization requirements for school entry: childcare thru grad school

• Enforcement of requirements is determined at the local level (e.g., school district)
  • Consult w/ legal counsel
  • Balance the dual public health benefits of high vaccination coverage and school attendance
  • Consider how enforcement may be implemented equitably to support unimmunized or partially immunized children
  • Reference the McKinney Vento Act when children are experiencing homelessness

• Exemptions satisfy school requirements, but they do not shield students from school exclusion in the event of a vaccine-preventable disease
  • Medical exemptions must be renewed annually: a physician (or designee) certification that immunization is medically contraindicated
  • Religious exemptions should be renewed annually: a parent or guardian’s written statement that immunizations conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs

• Questions? Email Immunization Data Assessment Unit at immassessmentunit@mass.gov
Every Student Succeeds Act

- The **Every Student Succeeds Act** protects homeless children and children in foster care from exclusion.
- This act covers migrant children who may be staying in temporary shelters or other alternative accommodations.
- Unimmunized or partially immunized children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care cannot be denied entry to public school if they do not have immunization records.
- The school district's Homeless Education Liaison/foster care point of contact has the responsibility to obtain relevant academic records and immunizations or medical records and to ensure that students are attending school while records are sought.
- Questions? Email DESE at **compliance@doe.mass.edu**
School Immunization Survey: Schedule & Updates

- Grades assessed: Childcare/Prek, Kindergarten, Grade 7, Grade 12, and College
- With 2023-24 school year, the Grade 11 survey has been converted to a Grade 12
- School requirements for entry remain unchanged
- No influenza survey this year

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations
Vaccine Access Project: LBOH Survey

- The **Vaccine Access Project** is an initiative of the MDPH Data Assessment Unit to increase our understanding of how mobile vaccination programs and LBOH vaccinators support vaccine access throughout the Commonwealth

- **Project goals**
  - Gather information on vaccination capacity and community partnerships from LBOH staff
  - Develop resources to assist with increasing vaccine access for vulnerable populations

- Please take 2-3 minutes to complete the survey below:
  [https://forms.office.com/g/Q2VHQS8S58](https://forms.office.com/g/Q2VHQS8S58)

- **Questions?**
  - Email Immunization Data Assessment Unit at [immassessmentunit@mass.gov](mailto:immassessmentunit@mass.gov)