



# KIDSNET UPDATE

RHODE ISLAND'S INTEGRATED CHILD HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM

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## 2023, Issue 4

### 2023 Immunization Champion Award Winner

Congratulations to our 2023 Immunization Champion Award winner, Beata Nelken, MD, with Jenks Pediatrics. Immunization Champions go above and beyond in their leadership, collaboration, innovation, and advocacy efforts. Congratulations, Dr. Nelken!

### New PCV Vaccine

Pneumococcal 20-valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV20) will soon be available to order through the State Supplied Vaccine (SSV) program. The CVX code for PCV20 is 216 and the vaccine CPT code is 90677. Providers that use data sheets to report immunizations should report PCV20 under "other" until updated data sheets are distributed. For information about transitioning from PCV13, please check your email for Provider Advisories related to ordering PCV20, returning unused PCV13 supply, and the vaccine schedule.

### Vaccinating Your Staff During Flu Season

Primary care practices that vaccinate staff as well as patients during flu season, can run the KIDSNET Patient List Report to remove staff from their patient list. The Direct Data Entry feature in KIDSNET can also be used to enter staff's immunization information. To prevent staff from being added to a practice patient list when using the Direct Data Entry feature in KIDSNET/RICAIR, enter all the required vaccine information, select the not my patient box on the left-hand side, and then select submit. Contact KIDSNET/RICAIR Provider Relations representative for more information on access to the direct data entry feature or to schedule a training.

### LeadCare Blood Testing Machines No Longer Approved by RIDOH For Use in Rhode Island

The point-of-care blood lead testing machine known as LeadCare or LeadCare II is no longer approved for use in Rhode Island.

The CDC lowered the blood lead reference value (BLRV) to 3.5 µg/dL in October 2021. With this change, the LeadCare testing margin of error can result in false negatives and lead to under-reporting of lead poisoning. In-office capillary lead testing is acceptable and encouraged. If you would like more information about in-office capillary lead testing, please contact Lori Clark at [Lori.Clark@health.ri.gov](mailto:Lori.Clark@health.ri.gov) or 401-222-7751.

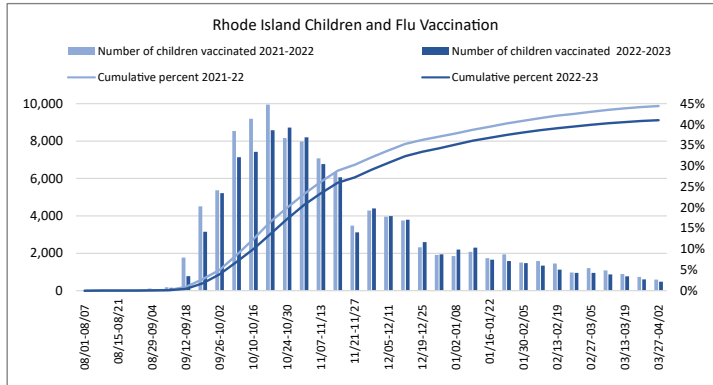
The RIDOH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is asking all primary care providers to provide parents with a copy of *Understanding Your Lead Levels (Understanding Your Child's Lead Screening (ri.gov))* when ordering a venous draw or performing a capillary lead test. Please call 401-222-7796 to order flyers in English and Spanish at no cost. All KIDSNET users with access to KIDSNET reports are encouraged to run the KIDSNET lead screening reports to make sure that all of your patients/clients have been screened for elevated blood lead levels.



## Flu Vaccination

RIDOH tracks flu vaccination status in the state as a whole and in several priority populations.

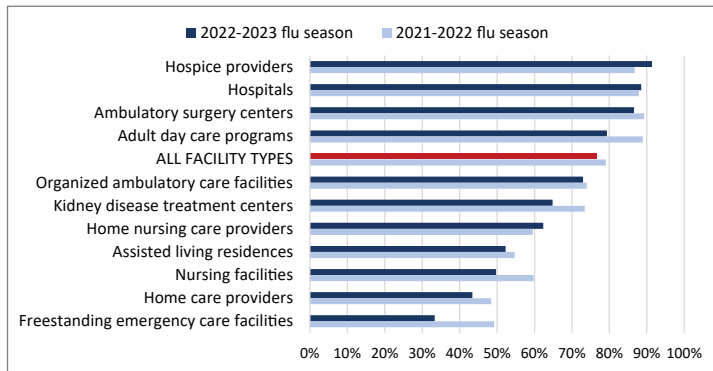
Compared to the previous flu season, 2022-23 flu vaccination started more slowly compared to the previous year among children and never completely caught up. At the end of the 2022-23 flu season (April 2023), 41.1% of children had received the flu vaccine compared to 44.4% in the 2021-22 flu season.



Data source: Rhode Island Child and Adult Immunization Registry (RICAIR)

Another priority population for influenza vaccination is healthcare workers. RICAIR does not include employment information, so RIDOH collects workforce flu vaccination status from healthcare facilities in an annual survey.

During the 2022-23 flu season, flu vaccination of workers increased in three healthcare sectors (hospice, hospitals, and home nursing care) but declined from 2021-22 levels in all others. Workers in nursing facilities, home care, and freestanding emergency care facilities are the least well-vaccinated against influenza.



Data source: Healthcare Worker Influenza Vaccination Report

## School Immunization Survey

At the beginning of each school year, the Office of Immunization requires all Rhode Island school nurses to complete and submit their students' immunization vaccination coverage and exemption data through a web-based immunization survey.

All students are required to provide documentation that they are up-to-date on certain vaccines for entry to kindergarten, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th grades. Data includes the number of students who have been assessed, are fully immunized, are without an immunization record, and have a vaccine exemption certificate on file.

These data are used to monitor compliance with school vaccination laws and to identify areas vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases due to increasing exemptions or other reasons for non-vaccination. All reports are shared with superintendents, school nurses, the Principals' and School Committee Association, the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other immunization partners.

The 2022-2023 Immunization Survey Data Report for individual school districts, as well as a statewide report can be viewed at: <https://health.ri.gov/data/schools/immunization>.

Quality, timely, and accessible data can help schools to effectively deliver vaccines and ensure compliance with immunization regulations.

Please contact [Kathy.Marceau@health.ri.gov](mailto:Kathy.Marceau@health.ri.gov) with questions.

