

# NMDOH News Brief

# IMMUNIZATION



NM Department of Health Immunization Program

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## Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines *(including flu vaccines)*

Edward Wake  
CDC Public Health Advisor to New Mexico

With the fall season approaching, it is time to start giving flu vaccine to everyone 6 months of age and older. This year, COVID-19 vaccination has been a priority for many health care providers to stem the pandemic, and those efforts are ongoing.

This raises an important question: can the COVID-19 vaccine be given simultaneously with flu vaccine? Although data are not available for COVID-19 vaccines administered simultaneously with other vaccines, extensive experience with non-COVID-19 vaccines has demonstrated that immunogenicity and adverse event profiles are

generally similar when vaccines are administered simultaneously as when they are administered alone. COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines. This was out of an

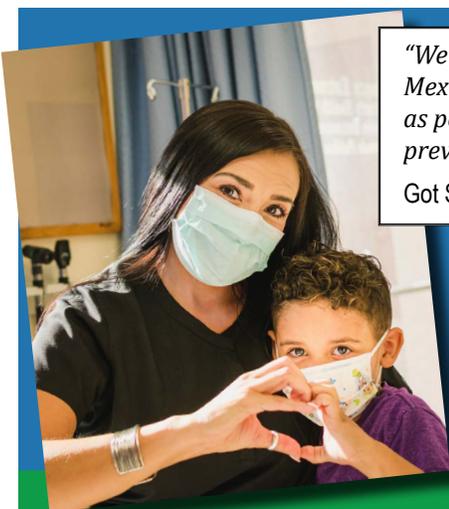
abundance of caution during a period when these vaccines were new and not due to any known safety or immunogenicity concerns.

However, substantial data have now

been collected regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized by

*COVID-19 vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines.*

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*"We want to keep all New Mexican children as safe as possible from vaccine-preventable diseases."*

Got Shots 2021

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## New vaccine presentations for fiscal year 2022

Andrea Romero  
*Immunization Program Finance Manager*

The Immunization Program has added two new presentations to pediatric vaccine ordering. Vaxelis and MenQuadfi are new presentations that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

- Vaxelis is a vaccine indicated for active immunization to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and invasive disease due to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib). Vaxelis is approved for use as a 3-dose series in children 6 weeks through 4 years of age (prior to the 5th birthday).

- MenQuadfi is a vaccine indicated for active immunization for the prevention of invasive meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups A, C, W, and Y. MenQuadfi is approved for use in individuals 2 years of age and older.

For additional information on these vaccine presentations please refer to the links below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>

<https://www.menquadfi.com/>

<https://www.vaxelis.com/resources-tools/>

## Got Shots?

### *The importance of routine vaccinations during the pandemic*

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA  
*NM Immunization Coalition*

Got Shots events took place from July 24 through August 14, and was extended through August to allow more time for parents to get their children up to date.

With children going back to school in person, it is extremely important to make sure they are protected against measles, mumps, chickenpox, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, polio, pertussis, Human papillomavirus and meningitis. While children under 12 are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, children 12 and older should also be protected through vaccination as soon as possible.

We want to keep all New Mexican children as safe as possible from vaccine-preventable diseases. The last thing we want to encounter is an outbreak of diseases that children should already be vaccinated against.

Got Shots saw an increase of 50% of the number of providers signed up over last year (73), with providers spread across most New Mexico counties (27/33). We continue to collect data, and the preliminary feedback shows turnout is much improved this year. Roughly one third of participating clinics have reported—currently, data shows almost 1,000 children received about 2,200 shots.

This year pharmacies around the state offered COVID-19 vaccine for children 12 and up in an expansion called “Got COVID Shots.” Pharmacies designated walk-in hours for tweens and teens to help make COVID-19 shots readily available for ages 12 and older. The percent vaccinated in this age group is steadily increasing, and we credit pharmacies for helping with this push. Just over 50% of teens 12-17 are fully vaccinated, and 61% are partially vaccinated.

As children return to in-person learning, masking, physical distancing, and good hand hygiene will do a lot to keep infectious diseases from spreading. However, making sure children are up to date on all required vaccines will be the best protection to keep outbreaks from happening.

## Better Together Grant Program

Acacia Vernon  
Momentum Santa Fe

The Better Together Grant Program has been developed to provide COVID-19 vaccine equity and inclusion by reaching under-vaccinated communities throughout the state with information and vaccines.

The pandemic has brought change and opportunity to all of us, worldwide. As we look at the global impact and begin to funnel down to specific populations, communities and individuals we find humanity. In New Mexico we have diverse cultural, economic and social populations. These diversities bring opportunity for creative thinking and development of innovative approaches to reach the core of each population, each human in our state.

The time has come to truly meet people where they are. These grant opportunities are meant to encompass out-of-the box thinking to be built into an effective, efficient and proven framework. The underlying goal is to help organizations who have been going full-steam for more than a year now to cross the finish line for the people they serve.

Learn more at  
[BetterTogetherNM.org](http://BetterTogetherNM.org)

## Immunization Program *Staffing announcements*

**Catherine Campbell** / CDC Public Health Associate

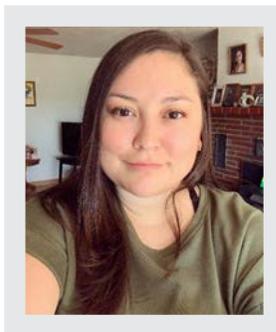
The Immunization Program will have a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention associate joining its ranks this October. The CDC's Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) has chosen Catherine Campbell as an associate who will work within the Program for a two-year assignment in which she will gain experience in the field of public health while assisting the Program in a variety of critical activities. Catherine is not a stranger to the area, having been born and raised in Albuquerque and having received her bachelor's degree at the University of New Mexico. Join us in welcoming her to DOH.

More information on PHAP can be found here:  
[CDC Public Health Associate Program \(PHAP\)](#)

**Kate Dauber** / VFC Operations Manager

A California native, Kate came to Santa Fe in 1985 and has lived and raised her family here ever since. She has worked with the Department of Health since 2017. Before coming to the Department, she worked for 13 years at the Aging and Long-Term Services Department.

In retirement, she is looking forward to having more time to pursue her life-long interest in photography. Kate plans to retire on October 1. The Immunization Program wishes Kate the best in this new exciting chapter of her life.



**Wenonah Stevens, MPH** /  
Quality Improvement Epidemiologist

A proud Native New Mexican and life-long resident of beautiful Chimayo, Wenonah Stevens is passionate about her Hispanic and Indigenous roots. She has dedicated her career to science, public health and health care. Receiving her Master of Public Health from The University of New Mexico

Staffing Announcements  
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**STAFFING Announcements**  
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**Wenonah Stevens, continued**

(UNM) in 2020 she now serves as the QI Epidemiologist for the Immunization Program. Wenonah is committed to improving immunization coverage among children and adults in New Mexico. She is part of the UNM School of Medicine class of 2026 and will begin her journey as a medical student next year. Wenonah has committed her life to serving New Mexicans and the greater public and plans to practice either Family or Emergency Medicine in the Northern New Mexico Community. Her goal is to advocate for underrepresented minority populations and leverage social equity throughout New Mexico, so that every New Mexican has a right to access health care and a proper education. She has a special interest in the areas of mental health, substance abuse and generational traumas, as well as much greater topics, such as, climate change, social justice and social equity.

In her free time, she enjoys being with family, playing with her pets, and spending time outdoors. She is a lifelong snowboarder and loves to chase after big powder storms! Wenonah also loves to fly fish, hunt, hike and camp. Wenonah has been with the NMDOH Immunization Program since June.

**Special Recognition to Josephine Martinez**

*Andrea Romero*  
*Immunization Program Finance Manager*

**Covid-19 Art Exhibit** — The Immunization Program would like to recognize Josephine L. Martinez, Advanced General Clerk at the Northeast Heights Public Health Office in Albuquerque, for her pandemic-inspired artwork.



*Josephine Martinez with her artwork, New Mexico COVID-19 Response Team [mixed media]*

Josephine submitted an art piece that is now being showcased at the New Mexico State Fair Art Exhibit. The title of the artwork is *New Mexico COVID-19 Response Team*. The artwork is dedicated to those who worked on COVID-19, those who survived COVID-19, and those who succumbed to COVID-19.

The mixed-media artwork is signed by staff who have been on the COVID-19 Response Team; the design was created by upcycling the

colorful tops collected from empty COVID-19 vaccine vials: Blue is Janssen tops, Red is Moderna tops, Purple is Pfizer tops, Pink is Pfizer diluent tops. Josephine has been awarded a ribbon of honorable mention for her creative artwork.

## New Mexico receives recognitions at AIRA Conference 2021

NM DOH Immunization Program staff (Lorraine Ortiz, Kathryn Cruz, Joelle Jacobs, Lynne Padilla, and Elizabeth Cisneros) recently attended the 2021 National AIRA Conference in Portland, Oregon. AIRA, or the American Immunization Registry Association, is an organization whose purpose is to promote and facilitate the sharing and use of immunization information by all partnerships. The national meeting is held annually and is an opportunity for Immunization Program staff to meet face to face with other jurisdictions and talk through some of the challenges, best practices and recommendations for immunizations and the immunization registry.

While gathering in person this year was difficult

due to the restrictions of the pandemic, it was also a unique opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues who have had the same difficulties and challenges over the last year — and to know that Immunization Program staff are not alone!

New Mexico was one of four states recognized for outstanding work and efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, NMSIIS Manager, Kathryn Cruz, received an individual award for her role and leadership in the IIS community. Great job New Mexico!

Kathryn Cruz, received an individual award for her role and leadership in the IIS community. Great job New Mexico!



**Photos clockwise from top:** *TEAM HIGH-FIVE* recognition that New Mexico received for our efforts with COVID-19; The AIRA logo for the 2021 national meeting; Kathryn Cruz, NMSIIS Manager, preparing to present at a plenary session on New Mexico's experience with COVID-19; Immunization Program staff at the networking event

**Coadministration of COVID vaccine**  
*continued from front page*

COVID-19 vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines (like DT, DTaP, Kinrix, Quadracel, Pediarix, Pentacel, Hep A, Hep B, Twinrix, PedvaxHIB, HPV, to name a few) or live vaccines. When deciding whether to coadminister an(other) vaccine(s) with a COVID-19 vaccine, vaccination providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For adolescents and adults, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection administered at different sites in the muscle.



**Best practices for multiple injections include:**

- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g., tetanus-toxoid-containing and adjuvanted vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

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## **CDC's new Field Guide for COVID vaccination strategies**

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CDC is excited to share a new tool to support health departments and community organizations, the [COVID-19 Vaccination Field Guide: 12 Strategies for Your Community](#). Developed by a team of researchers with the guidance of the country's

leading behavioral scientists, the Field Guide offers evidence-based intervention strategies and real-world examples to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake. We hope this new tool helps support your ongoing COVID-19 vaccine uptake efforts.

**Contact us**

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*Call or email us for more information about our newsletter or if you have an item to submit for publication.*

