

NMDOH News Brief

IMMUNIZATION



NM Department of Health Immunization Program

Spring 2025 / Issue No. 27

New Mexico's Measles Response

Andrea Romero
Immunization Program Manager

The New Mexico Department of Health officially declared a Measles outbreak on February 14. New Mexico met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's outbreak criteria with three (unrelated) cases in Lea County.

As soon as the outbreak was declared, the plan was to do a small, scaled incident command structure that swiftly responded to the immediate need of preventing disease spread. The Hobbs Public Health Office organized vaccination clinics that began the first weekend and continued the following week. Southeast Region staff collaborated with the mobile vaccine team in providing access to MMR vaccinations to the community.

Remembering back to December 27, 2020, the first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was held, called for

Measles
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Statewide Immunization Program Training

Kathryn "Katie" Cruz
NMSIIS Manager

The Immunization Program recently held the 2025 Statewide Immunization Provider Training. This year the training was held in-person in all five regions, and the series wrapped up with a virtual webinar on March 25, 2025. The immunization staff was joined by our Vaccine Regional Coordinators (list on page 4) from around the state to provide a wide variety of training topics facilitated by NMSIIS

Immunization Program Training
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SW Region Immunization Coordinator, Kimberly Orozco; SW Immunization Clerk, Erica Nieto; VFC Manager, Lynne Padilla; NMSIIS Training Coordinator Samantha Sanchez; VFC Health Educator, Daisy Lujan

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Public Health Day at the Roundhouse

Vanessa Hansel
Vaccine and Outreach Manager

On February 5, the Immunization Program was invited to attend the annual Public Health Day at the Roundhouse for the third year in a row. Program staff was on hand providing information and educational materials about childhood, adolescent and adult vaccines while the Mobile Vaccine Team was stationed at an adjacent table with a private corner where Influenza (Flu) and Covid vaccinations were provided at no cost.

Andrea Romero, Immunization Program Manager and Vanessa Hansel, Vaccine and Outreach Manager tabled the event along with the Mobile Vaccine Team. The awesome vaccination team offered Flu and Covid vaccines to both children and adults. The Immunization Program staff gave out fun incentives and educational materials regarding Measles, Polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Our table was located near the Rotunda—the best seat in the house! Many community members who visited our area were interested in being immunized, and the Mobile Vax Team quickly got them vaccinated. The Program received much praise and thanks regarding the work we continue to do surrounding vaccines for all New Mexicans.

Public Health Day
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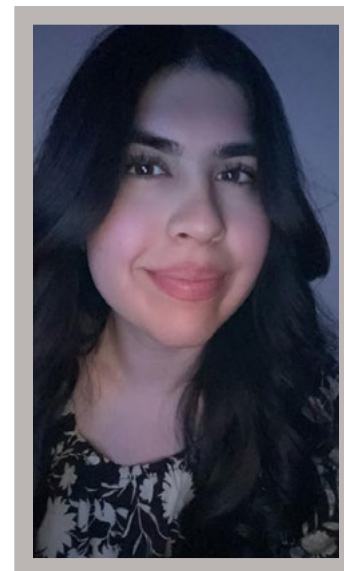


Public Health Day with Immunization Program staff and the Mobile Vaccine Team

Immunization Program *Staffing announcements*

Bianca Gonzales, *Adult Vaccine Coordinator*

Bianca Gonzales has worked for the State of New Mexico in various capacities since 2017; most of that time with the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH). Her most recent position was with the Survey Section as the Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data and Operations



Manager. Over the years, Bianca has gained extensive experience in public health initiatives. Through her work with NMDOH, Bianca has

developed a background in data management, strategic planning, and maintaining partnerships with health care providers, state partners, and community organizations.

Born and raised in Santa Fe, she is proud to call New Mexico her home. Outside of work, Bianca enjoys spending time with her family and dogs, playing volleyball and basketball, and exploring the incredible beauty that New Mexico offers. She is deeply passionate about the health of New Mexicans,

and she is dedicated to improving healthcare access, outcomes, and community well-being. Bianca is excited to rejoin the Immunization Program as the Adult Vaccine Coordinator!

Measles

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by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics. Today, this serves as an important reminder about the public health efforts that have been established to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic and to be prepared for potential future outbreaks. New Mexico is using the tools in our toolbox!

Incorporating subject matter experts is key for preparedness readiness. We learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic that partnerships are indispensable when responding. No one organization can do the uplift alone—it takes the community as a whole.

Messaging is a priority as New Mexico and surrounding states are experiencing measles cases. Providing up-to-date information in our messaging is critical.

The importance of vaccination catch-up and guidance is another priority. The NMDOH has created a dedicated [Measles page](#) with outbreak guidance that features frequently asked questions, resources, and case counts that shows the latest data in New Mexico. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is updating their webpage with counts from all states that have measles cases. Thank you, New Mexico, for responding and vaccinating to protect our communities.

The approach to the measles outbreak consists of three steps:



Prevent

Prevent disease with vaccine



Detect

Where are there cases?



Respond

Respond with immediate action to control and prevent disease spread.

Important resources and links

- ▶ School Immunization Requirements [link](#)
- ▶ [PSA](#) on Measles featuring Dr. Miranda Durham
- ▶ NMDOH Helpline is available at 1-833-796-8773

Webinar on Pneumococcal Disease

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA
NM Immunization Coalition

On March 19, the New Mexico Immunization Coalition, New Mexico Department of Health, and Comagine Health held a webinar outlining the epidemiology of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in New Mexico and the different vaccines that are now available to protect against IPD. The speakers were Jessica Houston, an epidemiologist from NMDOH's Active Bacterial Core Surveillance team, and Melissa Martinez, MD, a practicing Family Medicine Doctor at UNM and immunization expert. Over 80 people tuned in to the webinar live. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the recording online [here](#).

Rates of pneumococcal disease have declined dramatically since 2000, when the PCV7 vaccine was introduced for children. Each time a new vaccine targeting more strains of streptococcus pneumoniae is introduced, we have seen a drop in case rates. During the COVID pandemic we saw another drop due to social distancing, mask-wearing and fewer interactions

Pneumococcal Webinar
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Provider Training

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Training Coordinator, Samantha Sanchez. This year’s Statewide Provider Training was very successful, and we are appreciative of all presenters and attendees. Materials for the training will be available in the NMSIIS Reports module, or on the Immunization Program [website](#), under the “Resources” tab.

Vaccine Regional Coordinators

Metro & NW Region

Erica Flores
Crystal Trujillo
Melissa Padilla
Angelica Torres

NE Region

Nicolette Perez

SE Region

Kelly Bassett
Zachariah Washington

SW Region

Kimberly Orozco

Pneumococcal Webinar

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with large groups. Sadly, case rates have now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

A new version of the PCV21 vaccine was recently licensed and recommended.



This new version covers many of the same strains as PCV20 and PCV15, but adds some new ones and, notably, does not include some strains such as serotype 4.

New Mexico and other western states have seen an uptick in cases caused by serotype 4, ~30% of the cases. This leads to the question: which vaccine is appropriate to give to which patients?

Alcoholism, chronic lung disease, cigarette smoking, homelessness and injection drug use all are considered risk factors for IPD, and the vaccine containing the serotype 4 might be a better choice for people with those risk factors. For older adults, the new PCV21 vaccine might provide better coverage for the strains that predominate in adults over 50. The webinar provided nuanced guidance as how to best serve patients by considering their age and risk factors.

Public Health Day

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The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils facilitated Public Health Day. The opening remarks were provided by NMDOH Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Miranda Durham; NMDOH Tribal Liaison, Janet Johnson; and Program Manager for Center for Health Innovation, Maria Anna Molina. Other speakers included staff from Healthy Climate NM, Center for Civic Policy, Alcohol Harms Alleviation Coalition, UNM College of Population Health, NM Department of Health, Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) & Farmers Market Program, County Community Health Council, Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana, and the New Mexico Public Health Association. Public Health Day also featured a vibrant performance from the Diné jazz trumpet artist Delbert Anderson Quartet.

It was to be in the Roundhouse with so many other Public Health advocates educating New Mexicans on the importance of vaccines!

School Requirements 2025-26

The Vaccine Advisory Group meets every fall to review the NM School and Childcare Immunization Requirements. The 2025-26 requirements has minor roll-up changes, but no new vaccines were added. School requirements are posted on the NMDOH [website](#).

Got Shots



This summer, the annual Got Shots back-to-school vaccination campaign begins June 14 and continues through August 30! We have extended dates to provide more opportunities for busy families to get their children up-to-date before school starts. NMDOH is planning advertising, social media and promotional posters.

Got Shots will run 11 weeks including 12 Saturdays! Please consider signing up to participate. Visit the NMIC website for [details](#).

Photo Gallery

Photos from the various Statewide Immunization Provider Training sessions held around the state.



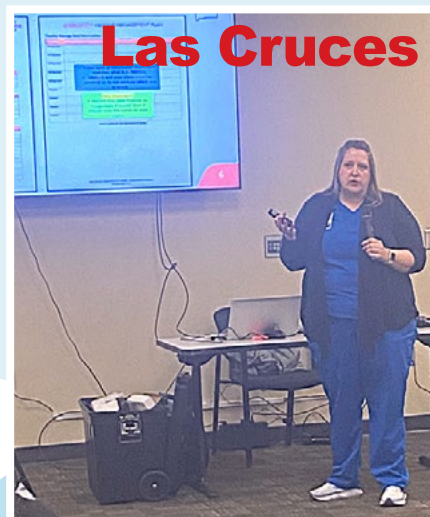
SE Region Immunization Coordinators, Kelly Bassett & Zachariah Washington



NE Region Health Educator, Nicolette Perez



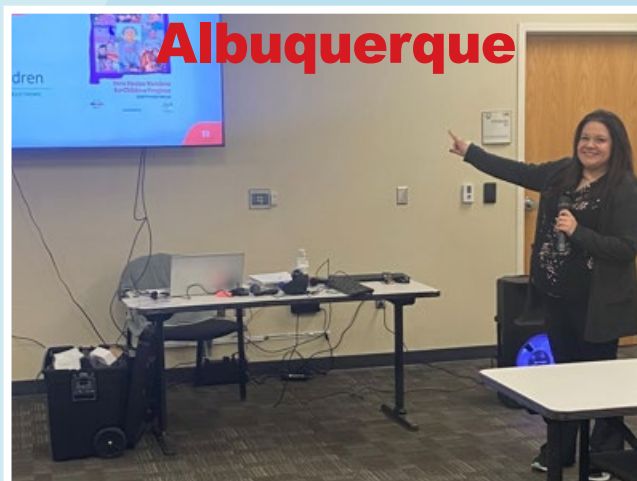
Immunization Compliance Coordinator, Scarlett Swanson and NMSIIS Training Coordinator, Samantha Sanchez



SW Region Immunization Coordinator, Kimberly Orozco



Metro/NW Region Immunization Coordinator Supervisor, Erica Flores



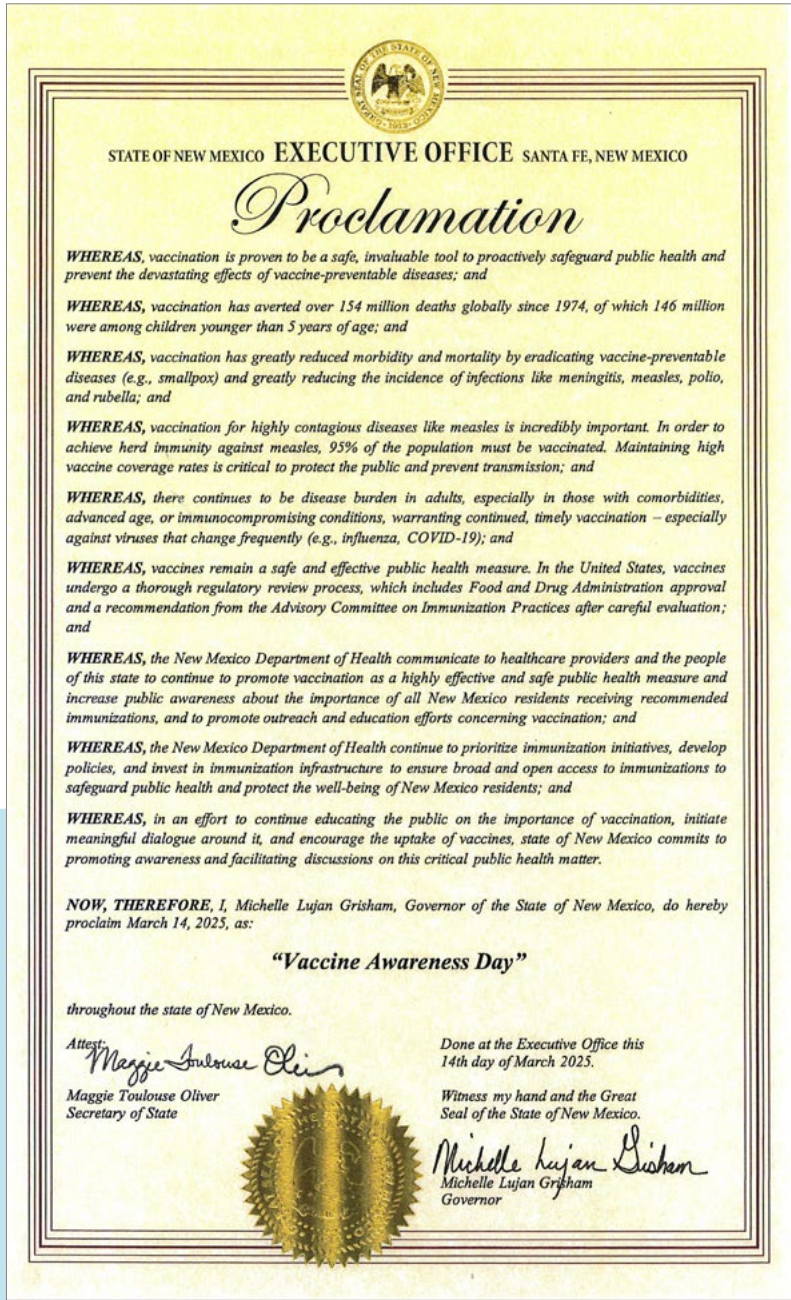
VFC Health Educator, Daisy Lujan

Immunization Proclamation

*commemorates
March 14, 2025 as
Vaccine Awareness Day*

New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham signed a Proclamation to dedicate March 14, 2025 as Vaccine Awareness Day. This special designation underscores the importance of vaccination and the continued work of the New Mexico Department of Health and dedicated healthcare providers around the state.

We deeply thank all who work to keep New Mexico’s children and communities protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.



← Left to Right: Art Hull, GSK Contract Counsel, Lance Chilton, MD, New Mexico Immunization Coalition Co-chair, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and Jeff Woodhouse, GSK, attended the Immunization Proclamation signing on March 14 in Santa Fe at the State Capitol.

**Contact
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Call or email us for more
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item to submit for publication.

