

New Mexico takes the lead at AIRA national meeting



Andrea Romero, Immunization Program Manager

The American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) national meeting was held in Pittsburgh PA on April 28-30, 2026. Pittsburgh was the home of Mr. Rogers, the beloved TV personality who reminded us of the power of being good neighbors. In this spirit, the meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen our IIS community, learn from one another, and continue building partnerships that support us to serve our communities even better.

As we continue adapting to change within our jurisdictions and across the country, AIRA remains a steadfast partner committed to the mission of promoting and supporting the use of immunization information systems (IIS) to ensure healthy communities. This year’s meeting reflected commitment and shared vision for advancing public health together. The agenda spanned a variety of topics with breakout sessions covering IIS sustainability, data exchange,

AIRA Meeting
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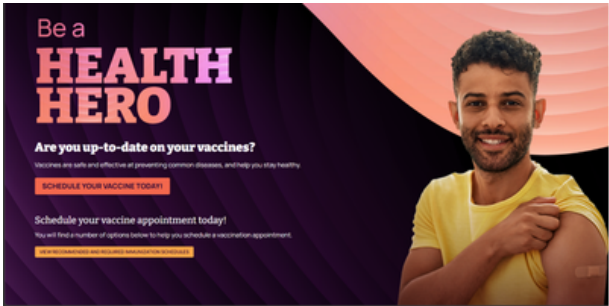
All awardees of AIRA 2026



Updated website provides faster access to immunizations

Andrea Romero
Immunization Program Manager

Be a Health Hero! Check out our updated [webpage](#) that provides information about access to immunizations. Here, you can find vaccine and provider locators, Got Shots locations, vaccine schedules, Shots for Tots booklets, links to vaccine dashboards, and more.



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Immunization Program Staffing announcements



Andrea Romero

Immunization Program Manager

Kathryn “Katie” Cruz

Katie has served as the New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) Manager, and we are pleased to announce Katie has now been promoted to Immunization Section Deputy & Compliance Manager. Katie oversees the New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) and compliance sections of the program. Katie's many years of experience in the Immunization Program have contributed to enhancing and providing accurate timely data from the Immunization Information System. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Katie has enhanced the NMSIIS to be one of the leading platforms in the country to help with outbreak response and ease of use regarding vaccine record access for the community. In this new role, Katie will continue to use her expertise to enhance processes in the program. Congratulations, Katie!



adolescent, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) sections of the program. In her role as the Vaccine and Outreach Manager, Vanessa streamlined processes to ensure vaccine distribution and access in the community. In her new role with oversight of all vaccine distribution areas, the program will be better equipped to recruit additional providers and foster even closer collaboration with the community, including mobile vaccine efforts. Vanessa's passion to support the community through vaccine access will continue to shine in this new position. Congratulations, Vanessa!

Catherine Campbell

As of June 20, Catherine is the New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) Manager. Catherine started with the Immunization Program under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Associates Program and completed her two-year term. Catherine was then hired as a health educator with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program assisting providers with vaccine orders and technical support. She brings a wealth of knowledge from experience and her education in Public Health. Catherine has learned many areas of the program activities and brings new ideas to enhance the program. Congratulations and welcome to the immunization management team, Catherine!



Vanessa Hansel

Vanessa has been the Vaccine and Outreach Manager, and she recently has been promoted to the Vaccines and Operations Manager position that oversees outreach, adult,



Statewide Immunization Training



The annual Immunization Program training coordinated by the New Mexico Immunization Coalition was held on June 12. This year the training consisted of communication and customer service styles as part of new enhancement processes in the program. The State Personnel Office conducted the sessions, with tips and tricks for identifying

communication styles and learning skills to enhance assistance to the community. Brandy Jones, Perinatal Hep B and Adolescent Vaccine Coordinator, opened the day with a vaccine presentation to provide awareness and accurate information about media messages. This presentation may continue as a reoccurring topic.

Got Shots 2026 in the spotlight

Andrea Romero, Immunization Program Manager

Got Shots, taking place June 13 through August 29, has been a successful annual event that provides vaccine catch-up for thousands of children in New Mexico. There are now 69 providers signed up! This initiative provides opportunities for children to stay up to date on their immunizations. During Got Shots, participating providers open their doors for any child who presents for immunizations, regardless of whether they are a patient or if they have insurance.

The NM Department of Health, the NM Primary Care Association, and the NM Immunization Coalition, along with our managed care partners, Presbyterian Healthcare Services and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, collaborate helping to ensure all New Mexico children are up to date on immunizations.

From these efforts, children are protected and caught up on immunizations when they

return to daycare and school. Thank you to all the partners and providers that make this event successful each year!

Providers can sign up to participate using this [link](#). View Got Shots clinics at <https://vaccine.doh.nm.gov/> on the clinic locator dashboard as shown below. Simply click on a clinic name to view dates of clinics being held.



Got Shots Provider Location

Additional Information

Hours:

- 6/18: 10-12 & 1-4
- 6/22: 9-12 & 1-4
- 6/25: 10-12 & 1-4
- 6/27: 10am-2pm

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				
July				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
August						1	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

Highlighted dates indicate when Got Shot's event is held.

Clinic Name

- Anthony Public Health Office
- Artesia Public Health Office
- Belen Public Health Office
- Ben Archer Health Center
- Ben Archer Health Center- Hatch
- Ben Archer Health Center SBC Turth or Consequences
- Ben Archer Health Center School Base
- Carlsbad Public Health Office
- CHAPARRAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE
- Christus St. Vincent Pediatrics
- Cibola County Public Health Office
- Clinica La Esperanza
- De Baca Family Practice Clinic
- El Pueblo Health Services
- First Choice Community Healthcare Edgewood, NM location
- First Nations Community HealthSource (Central Ave.)
- First Nations Community HealthSource (Zuni Rd.)
- Gallup Community Health
- Hart and Mind Pediatrics
- Hobbs Medical Clinic
- Hobbs Public Health Office
- Jicarilla Service Unit (JSU)
- La Clinica De Familia, INC Pediatrics
- Las Clinicas Del Norte (Abiquiu)
- Las Clinicas Del Norte (El Rito)
- Las Clinicas Del Norte (Ojo Caliente)
- Las Clinicas Del Norte (Ojo Caliente 2)

Check out the newly updated Got Shots dashboard here that is now hosted by the NMDOH Immunization Program. This image shows the clinic listing, a map of each clinic location, an additional information panel with clinic details, and a calendar for our community members to easily access.

SHOT BRIEFS

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA, NMIC

Celebrating 20 years of HPV Vaccine!

This spring marks 20 years since the HPV vaccine was first introduced, which is certainly something to celebrate! This safe and effective vaccine has dramatically reduced the rate of cervical dysplasia in girls and women who received the vaccine, and prevents roughly 90% of HPV-related cervical cancers, when administered before exposure to the virus.

HPV vaccine covers nine strains

Gardasil 9 is now the only HPV vaccine available in the United States. It covers nine strains of the Human Papilloma Virus, (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58); these types are responsible for approximately 90% of all cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts. HPV can also cause vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile and oropharyngeal cancers. Currently, oropharyngeal cancers comprise the largest portion of HPV-related cancers in men. HPV vaccines help protect against all these types of cancers and genital warts.

What is HPV disease?

HPV is a common sexually transmitted virus. Most people infected with HPV clear the infection without further problems. In a small percentage of people, however, the virus remains active and can cause changes in the cells that might later (sometimes decades later) develop into cancer. It's impossible

to predict who will clear the virus and who will develop cancer.

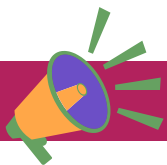
Who should get the vaccine?

Gardasil 9 is recommended for all tweens starting at age 9. Two doses are recommended for optimal protection when the series is started before age 15—with the second dose given 6-12 months after the first. If the series is started after age 15, then 3 doses are recommended (doses given at 0, 2 and 6 months). The decision to vaccinate adults ages 26-45 with HPV vaccine should be discussed with your health care provider.

Uptake

While HPV vaccine has been around for 20 years, uptake in New Mexico is lower than what we would like to see. About 70% of 13-15 year-olds have received one dose of the vaccine, but only 49% have completed the series. For younger tweens, the rates are much lower, with only 46% initiation and 15% completion by age 12. When health care providers recommend starting the vaccine at age 9, chances are higher their patients will complete the series before middle school. We are grateful to have an effective vaccine that can protect our children from developing cancer! We hope this valuable cancer-fighting tool will help eliminate these devastating cancers for future generations.

On May 20, New Mexico participated in a two-hour HPV Vaccine Summit, organized by the western states, featuring speakers from across the country. If you missed the Summit, you can watch the recording on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1194790348>



BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS: The New Mexico Immunization Coalition is about to undergo a major shift in staffing—after over twenty-three years, Maggie June and Anna Pentler are both retiring from UNM and NMIC on July 1! We are expecting a seamless transition to an excellent new team to continue the important work of the Coalition. NMIC has a vital role to play in keeping New Mexicans safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Maggie and Anna both want to thank the NMIC members, the NMIC and IPAC co-chairs, the NMDOH Immunization Program and all our partners and friends

for many years of collaboration on interesting, important and meaningful work. In addition to learning and growing, we have had fun and made deep connections. While we are excited to launch the next chapter in our lives, we will miss working with all of you but hope to stay informed about all the great work that you are doing. Anna and Maggie wish you all the best!

Please help us welcome Christie McAuley, the new Program Lead for NMIC. Christie comes to NMIC with many years of experience in a variety of public health and educational

realms. While she is new to vaccines, she is smart, dedicated, and will quickly get up to speed on the work of the coalition. We are so pleased to have her taking over the reins of this important program. Christie can be reached at cmcauley@salud.unm.edu.



AIRA Meeting

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emerging technologies, standards development, school-based reporting, consumer access, data quality, system modernization, strategic planning efforts, CDC program updates, and the annual AIRA Awards.

Each year AIRA presents Immunization Information System awards under the categories of Impact, Leadership, Volunteer Service, and Team for those folks who have gone above and beyond for efforts in the community. The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) has worked diligently to become a leading team in the country and was honored with multiple awards for preparedness response during an outbreak.

NMSIIS Epidemiologist Nathaniel Webb was presented the *Impact Award* for his contribution to the measles outbreak response. Nate developed the MMR vaccine administration and county coverage dashboards for community reference. Immunization Section Deputy & Compliance Manager Katie Cruz was presented the *Leadership Award* for spearheading immunization data and preparedness efforts during the measles outbreak. These national awards for “preparedness response during an outbreak” were well-deserved.

Marie Hartel serves as AIRA Board President, and she is also the Program Director in the Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program at the Tennessee Department of Health. She was on hand to honor awardees, along with Rebecca Coyle, MSEd, and Executive Director of AIRA.



Marie Hartel (left) and Rebecca Coyle (right) honor Nathaniel Webb receiving the Impact Award.



Powerpoint presentation announcing awardees Nathaniel Webb and Katie Cruz.



Marie Hartel (left) and Rebecca Coyle (right) honor Katie Cruz receiving the Leadership Award.

Contact us

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