

NMDOH News Brief

IMMUNIZATION



NM Department of Health Immunization Program

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NMIC 20th Anniversary meeting

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As the COVID-19 pandemic entered its 1000th day, it was fitting to start our NMIC December meeting with a lookback at the past two and a half years of New Mexico's COVID response. Dan Burke, Infectious Disease Bureau Chief at NMDOH gave a comprehensive overview of the pandemic, the testing, the vaccine rollout and the enormous efforts of so many.

We were delighted to announce our new NMIC co-chair, Dr. Lance Chilton. While not new to NMIC, Dr. Chilton is new to this role, and we look forward to his leadership along side Andrea Romero, Immunization Program Manager.

Dr. Andrew Kroger, CDC NCIRD, presented on the safety of vaccines, and the mechanisms in place to ensure safety is continually monitored even after vaccines are licensed or given emergency use authorization. He outlined the tremendous benefit of vaccines and how

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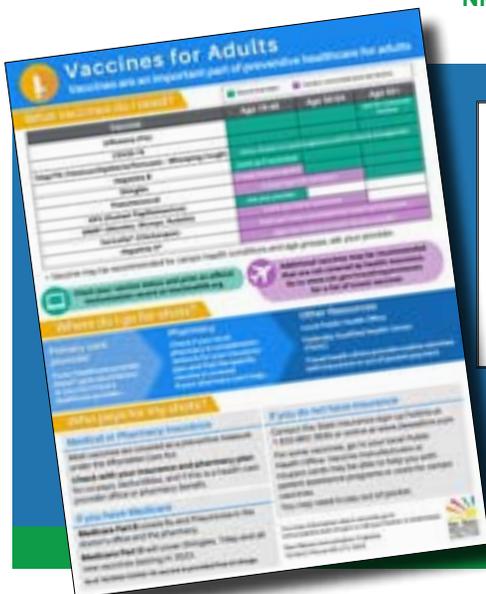
COVID-19 Vaccination Effort Champions

The Immunization Program recognized staff who have gone way above and beyond in their efforts with the COVID-19 response.

The program is proud of their hard work and dedication to the ordering, distribution, and access of vaccine to our community members around the state.

To honor the COVID-19 Champions, an Awards Ceremony was held during the NMIC December meeting

COVID-19 Champion Awards
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We've created a new Adult Vaccine toolkit with educational materials, see Page 6 for more details.

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Two year anniversary of COVID-19 vaccine

Maggie June, BA, Cht
NM Immunization Coalition

The CDC and NMDOH requested images about “Where were you December 14, 2020?” to commemorate the delivery of the first COVID-19 vaccine. The submissions were viewed as a slide show at the NMIC 20th Anniversary meeting. Here’s a montage of photos that were received from public health colleagues around the state.



COVID Vaccine Champions
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and Andrea Romero highlighted their excellent work. Below is a list of the Champions.

Champions

COVID Vaccine Pandemic Response

- ★ *Dion Barbero*
- ★ *Heather Black*
- ★ *Catherine Campbell*
- ★ *Elizabeth Cisneros*
- ★ *Kathryn Cruz*
- ★ *Elizabeth Davis*
- ★ *Bianca Gonzales*
- ★ *Grace Gonzales*
- ★ *Martha Griego*
- ★ *Joelle Jacobs*
- ★ *Luxi Ji*
- ★ *Devin Kavanaugh*
- ★ *Courtney Lovato*
- ★ *Felicia Martinez*
- ★ *Lynne Padilla*
- ★ *Edward Wake*

NMIC Meeting Photo Gallery



NMIC 20th Anniversary meeting
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they have changed the landscape of so many infectious diseases.

The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of an adult vaccine focus. Joelle Jacobs presented on the work that the Adult Vaccine Group is undertaking and introduced the new Adult Vaccine Manager, Vanessa Hansel.

During lunch, we presented Immunization Champion and COVID Champion awards. This truly was a celebration of so many who have worked so hard during the COVID-19 vaccine efforts!

In the afternoon, we learned how to cultivate pro-vaccine efforts to prepare for potential challenges. Becky Christensen with SAFE Communities, provided strategies to nurture pro-vaccine advocates. Abby Bownas with the Adult Vaccine Coalition presented on new vaccine coverage that will be provided by Medicare and Medicaid in 2023. Lastly, Dr. Matt Willis, Public Health Director of Marin County, CA presented on the work done in Marin County to move from high vaccine exemptions to excellent immunization rates and provided tips to improve vaccine acceptance and rates.

This year's meeting was a success with over 110 people attending and we are thankful for our awesome partners at Comagine Health who hosted the event at their office.

Immunization Program *Staffing announcements*

Sujeith Barraza-Lozoya / *CDC Public Health Advisor*

Sujeith is a bilingual and bicultural Latinx individual with a passion for public health. She received her MPH with an emphasis on global health and community health education from the Colorado School of Public Health. She dedicated several years of her public health career to a non-profit where she filled multiple roles to serve the community.

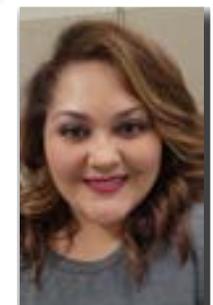


Sujeith joins us from the CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) where she worked at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) in Boise, Idaho assisting with COVID-19 efforts. She was able to support COVID-19 case investigations and control by reviewing notifications received from CDC and monitoring weekly vaccine adverse events reported to Idaho among other COVID-19 tasks throughout her two years with IDHW. During PHAP, Sujeith was able to participate in several CDC responses (COVID-19, rabies, and Mpox).

In her spare time, Sujeith enjoys spending time with loved ones, working out (hiking and running events—fellow Tough Mudder), and traveling.

Vanessa Hansel / *Adult Vaccine Manager*

Vanessa is our new Adult Vaccine Manager. She has been with the New Mexico Department of Health for over four years and state Government for about nine years in total. She has worked for numerous counties in New Mexico, and served multiple families in various capacities—she has worked with children 0-3 through the Family Infant Toddler Program, reunited families under the Children, Youth, and Families Department, and just prior to this position, she investigated abuse, neglect and exploitation in licensed facilities throughout New Mexico.



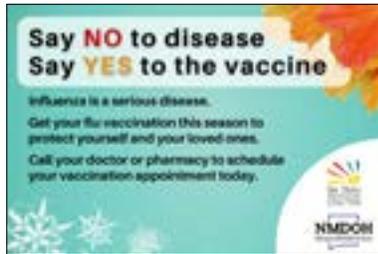
Vanessa looks forward to her new position and all that can be done for fellow New Mexicans. She feels honored to work for the people of New Mexico, a place she loves so much!

Staffing Announcements
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Adult vaccine toolkit

The New Mexico Adult Vaccine Workgroup has developed several educational handouts. Contact Vanessa Hansel if you're interested in obtaining any of these.

Vanessa.Hansel@doh.nm.gov



What is pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal disease refers to a wide range of infections caused by pneumococcus bacterium, including ear infections, sinus infections, pneumonia, bloodstream infections, meningitis, and sepsis.

Pneumococcal disease can range from mild to serious, and can sometimes be deadly.

The best way to prevent pneumococcal disease is through vaccination.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist today!

Questions about Flu, COVID-19, and Pneumococcal Vaccines?

Did you know?

Influenza (also called the Flu)

- Influenza, abbreviated flu, is a serious disease.
- You can get your flu vaccine and COVID vaccine.
- You need a flu vaccine every year.

COVID-19

- COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are here.
- You can get your flu vaccine and COVID vaccine.
- It's not too late to get vaccinated.

Pneumococcal Disease

- Pneumococcal vaccine can prevent pneumonia, but due to the pneumococcal bacterium.
- Pneumococcal disease refers to a wide range of illness caused by pneumococcal bacteria, including pneumonia, bloodstream infections, sepsis.
- The best way to prevent pneumococcal disease is through vaccination.

Say NO to disease. Say YES

Talk to your doctors to see if they recommend these or any other vaccines for you.

Did you know?

If you are 65 or older or have certain medical conditions, it is recommended that you get a vaccine to protect you against pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal disease in adults can range from mild to serious, and can sometimes be deadly.

There are two types of vaccine that can provide protection against pneumococcal disease.

<p>PCV 15 or PCV20</p> <p>Protects against 15-20 strains of pneumococcal disease.</p> <p>Recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 65 years and older Adults 19-64 years with certain medical conditions or risk factors. 	<p>PPSV23</p> <p>Protects against 23 strains of pneumococcal disease.</p> <p>Recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children 2-18 years old with certain medical conditions. Adults 19 years or older who get PCV15 or who have previously gotten only PCV15 or PCV20.
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Minimum Part 2 covers 100% of the cost of any of these vaccines when administered at least 12 months apart.

Talk to your doctors to see if they recommend these or any other vaccines for you.

COVID recognition awarded to Vanessa Marez and her Taskforce

Cibola County Nurse Manager Vanessa Marez and her COVID taskforce was recognized in the National Rural Health Day, as one of the "Community Stars."

Vanessa worked with a group of firefighters and EMS providers to design and implement a county-wide effort to vaccinate Cibola County residents against COVID-19. The taskforce organized and provided more than 250,000 tests and delivered over 36,000 vaccines to residents of Cibola and adjacent counties. Their efforts throughout the pandemic resulted in Cibola County becoming one of the top leaders in the state for most vaccinations administered.

Congratulations to Vanessa on her tremendous efforts and this well-deserved recognition!

Click [here](#) to visit the article that is on page 36.



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.

