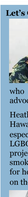
January 2022

HIC UPDATE

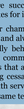
Activities of the Hawaii Immunization Coalition

Hawaii Immunization Coalition ...Protecting Hawaii's Families



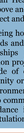
Meet HIC's newest intern, ***Melissa Kahili-Heede!*** Melissa is a PhD student at the University of Hawaii, Office of Public Health Studies. Melissa is completing her internship as a part of Dr. May Rose Dela Cruz's PH630 Cultural Competency in Health Care. Melissa already has a Bachelors degree in Geography, a Masters in Education and a Masters in Library Science. She is currently a librarian at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and teaches information literacy for numerous courses at the University. Additionally, Melissa has already co-authored various articles and presentations. Melissa brings a wealth of knowledge to the HIC Board, and we look forward to having her join us for a few months. If anyone is interested in an internship with HIC, please email us at hicimmunizchawaii@gmail.com.

Let's Celebrate the Honors of Two of Our Colleagues and Partners!



Heather Task, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) Executive Director and co-founder of Hep Free Hawaii received the "Business of Pride" Award from Pacific Business News. The award recognizes LGBTQ leaders, companies, and allies in Hawaii who are successful in their careers, active in their communities, and advocates for inclusion and equality.

Heather champions getting rid of barriers for the LGBTQ community in Hawaii and always being cognizant of culturally appropriate health services, especially behavioral health support programs specific to the trans and LGBQ+ communities. Her focus is developing formal policies and funding projects that are specific to the needs of her clients. Whether developing a smoking cessation program, taking on homelessness or finding a could fit for health services – Heather and her staff are on it! HIC is so pleased to be on the same team with Heather and HHHRC.



CJ Johnson, an infectious disease expert at the Hawaii State Dept of Health and a frequent speaker for HIC during the pandemic, is being honored as a *2021 Hawaii Healthcare Hero*. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii sponsors this program yearly.

A Hawaii Healthcare Hero is an extraordinary healthcare worker who went above and beyond to care for you or a loved one in a way that you did not expect and will always remember.

CJ is being honored for his efforts during the pandemic, working to meet the needs and expectations of those without a voice. He is currently the partnerships lead for the COVID-19 Outreach and Public Health Education project at the Hawaii State Department of Health. He has over a decade of experience in clinical and community health education, community organizing and non-profit leadership, with a particular focus on environmental and systemic barriers to health equity. His mission is to develop community partnerships to ensure that the department's COVID-19 guidance is timely, accurate and informed by community needs. Congratulations, CJ! It's nice to have you on the team!

Vaccinate Your Family has put up a special page on our Partner Portal with talking points, news articles, and legislation trackers: https://svfadvocacy.org/covid-resources/covid-19-vaccine-mandates/

Keiki Heroes Program
Keiki Heroes is a community empowerment initiative that provides Hawaii's keiki (children) with fun and engaging ways to encourage habits that keep them healthy and safe.
https://www.keikiheroes.org

COVID-19 Testing on Oahu
One Oahu C&C of Honolulu COVID-19 Information
https://www.oneoahu.org/covid19-testing

Aloha Clear National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii Testing Program Partnered with DOH/DOE/C&C Honolulu
https://alohaclear.com

Antibody Therapy Locators
National Infusion Center Association
https://infusioncenter.org/infusion_resources/nica-monoclonal-antibody-therapies/

Health and Human Services
https://protect-public.hhs.gov/pages/therapeutics-distribution#distribution-locations

World's First Approved Malaria Vaccine Will Save Millions of Lives

Malaria remains a primary cause of childhood illness and death in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 260,000 African children under the age of five die from malaria annually. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Malaria cases can be reduced through mosquito control programs, and antimalarial drugs can be used to treat infections. However, malaria parasites have developed resistance to some drugs, and children can still face long-term developmental and neurological complications after surviving a malaria infection. A preventive vaccine could change all of that.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is recommending widespread use of the new malaria vaccine called RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) for children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria transmission. The recommendation is based on results from an ongoing pilot program in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi that has reached more than 800,000 children since 2019.

"This is a historic moment. The long-awaited malaria vaccine for children is a breakthrough for science, child health and malaria control," said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Using this vaccine on top of existing tools to prevent malaria could save tens of thousands of young lives each year."

HIC Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination Update #2

BECOME A COVID-19 VACCINE PROVIDER
Help families and keiki get more protection!

On November 17, HIC and HPH sponsored a follow up webinar: Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination #2. The presenters were Dr. Sandra Chang, Dr. Natasha Ching and Marilyn Sandvig (Hawaii State Department of Health). The objectives for this webinar were to: 1) State the most current updates in COVID-19 vaccination recommendations for adults, 2) Discuss important clinical considerations for COVID-19 vaccination in the pediatric population, and 3) Describe how to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider in Hawaii.

Here is a link to the one hour recorded session, which can still be viewed for continuing education credit for physicians, nurses, pharmacists and social workers until December 17:

https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/ceform/video/?emeId=11244

Differences Between the Third Dose and Booster Dose

Booster doses are recommended to help individuals maintain their immunity against COVID-19. Over time, immunity against COVID-19 has waned in those who were fully vaccinated. Patients who completed their primary series of vaccinations can now choose any of the three FDA-authorized vaccines for their booster dose. However, patients who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive a third dose to complete their primary series of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. This third dose can be received at least 28 days after the 2-dose series.

If individuals are not moderately to severely immunocompromised, then they would receive a booster dose at least five months after their 2-dose series. This distinction is important when it comes to the Moderna vaccine because the volume of a booster dose is 0.25mL compared to a Moderna third dose, which is 0.5mL. Immunocompromised patients are also recommended to receive a booster (fourth) dose after completing their 3-dose series. Patients who received the JJ vaccine are eligible to receive a booster dose two months after their JJ vaccine regardless of their immunocompromised status. Please refer to the CDC website or talk to your doctor or local pharmacist for more information regarding the current qualifications for a booster dose or third dose.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html

CDC COVID-19 Booster Recommendation

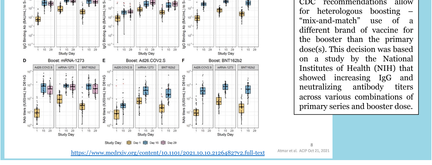
Who	When
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥ 12 years old
Moderna	≥ 18 years old
J&J / Janssen	≥ 18 years old

Pfizer-BioNTech	≥ 12 years old
Moderna	≥ 18 years old
J&J / Janssen	≥ 18 years old

≥ 5 months after completing primary COVID-19 vaccination series

≥ 28 days after receiving J&J / Janssen COVID-19 vaccination

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html



Alimet al. Medrxiv, 2021

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.10.10.21264279v1.full-text

CDC recommendations allow for heterologous boosting – "mix-and-match" use of a different brand of vaccine for the booster than the primary dose(s). This decision was based on a study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that showed increasing IgG and neutralizing antibody titers across various combinations of primary series and booster dose.

CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 → Isolate:

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 → Quarantine:

If you:
Have been boosted
OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months
OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:
Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted
OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted
OR Are unvaccinated

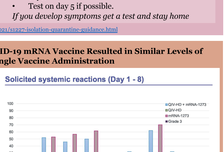
- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

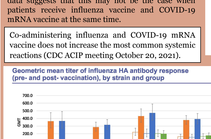
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html

Co-Administering Influenza Vaccine with COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Resulted in Similar Levels of Antibody Response as Single Vaccine Administration

Although CDC initially recommended spacing the timing of COVID-19 vaccinations apart from other vaccinations, co-administration of vaccines is allowed with the recommendation to separate injection sites by one inch or more if possible. While there was also concern about increased reactogenicity when other vaccines are co-administered with COVID-19 vaccine, data suggests that this may not be the case when patients receive influenza vaccine and COVID-19 mRNA vaccine at the same time.



Co-administering influenza and COVID-19 mRNA vaccine does not increase the most common systemic reactions (CDC ACIP meeting October 20, 2021).

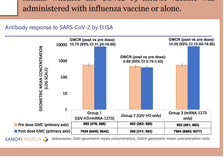


Co-administering influenza vaccine with COVID-19 mRNA vaccine does not affect antibody levels against influenza (CDC ACIP meeting October 20, 2021).

On October 20, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting included a presentation of results from a phase 2 clinical trial, comparing co-administration of quadrivalent influenza vaccine and COVID-19 mRNA vaccine with single administration of quadrivalent influenza vaccine or COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. Co-administration of vaccines resulted in the most common systemic reactions no more often than COVID-19 mRNA vaccine alone.

In addition, antibody levels against all four influenza vaccine strains were similar whether influenza vaccine was administered with COVID-19 mRNA vaccine or alone. Antibody levels against SARS-CoV-2 were also similar whether the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine was administered with influenza vaccine or alone.

Co-administering COVID-19 mRNA vaccine with influenza vaccine does not affect antibody levels against SARS-CoV-2 (CDC ACIP meeting October 20, 2021).



Hepatitis B Universal Vaccination Recommendation

If you or your organization is interested in joining with other Hawaii partners to educate, vaccinate, and test to prevent hepatitis B, go to the Hep Free Hawaii website (www.hepfrehealthawaii.org/hep-basics) and get involved.

There is no cure for hepatitis B (HBV), but strategies that focus on vaccination, testing, and treatment for adults show promise for eliminating this disease by 2030.

HIC is collaborating with partners Hep Free Hawaii, Dynavax Technologies, the Hawaii State Department of Health - Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to raise clinician awareness about increasing hepatitis B infection rates and vaccination as an effective strategy for this problem. Hep Free Hawaii is taking the lead with strategies to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030: https://www.hepfrehawaii.org/hep-free-2030

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends universal hepatitis B vaccination for all adults aged 19 to 59 years. In addition, those 60 years and older with risk factors for infection "should" receive the hepatitis B vaccine, and it further stipulates that those 60 years and older without known risk factors for hepatitis B "may" receive the vaccine.

Raising adult hepatitis B vaccination rates will be instrumental in reducing HBV infection across the United States.

The Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC) is a statewide, community-based non-profit 501(c)3 coalition of public and private organizations and concerned individuals whose mission is to promote effective strategies to ensure that all of Hawaii's families are appropriately vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases.