



## Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting

Virtual Meeting, January 28, 2025 - 10:00am - 12:00pm  
MAIC Meeting Minutes

### 53 Virtual Attendees

	Name	Organization
1	Susanna Bachle	Sanofi
2	Rich Baker	MAIC
3	Tess Bub	Sanofi
4	Kate Bunnell	UMass Med
5	Alexandra Burke	MAIC
6	Celine Cano-Ruiz	UMass Med
7	Brooke Cardoso	Seqirus
8	Simone Carter	Town of Hopkinton
9	Mary Ellen Casey	Healthcentric Advisors
10	Ted Clark	MA DPH
11	Joyce Cohen	MA DPH
12	Luke Cunniff	Merck
13	Lenny Demers	VaxCare
14	Sue DeRemer	GSK
15	Anne-Marie Devaney	Town of Weymouth
16	Sage Elias	Southcoast
17	Alessandra Fix	VaxCare
18	Angela Fowler	MA DPH
19	Margaret Goldstein	Town of Canton
20	Donna Hampton	UMass Med



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21	Wendy Judd	Barnstable County Health Department
22	Sahana Kannan	Pfizer
23	Angela Kramer	Town of Ludlow
24	Brett Lown	Dynavax
25	Ali Lydon	Merck
26	Charlotte Markson	BHCHP
27	Deanna Mazina	Executive Office of Aging and Independence
28	Mary McKenzie	Town of Saugus
29	Nancy McNeill	UMass Med
30	Cynthia McReynolds	MCAAP, MVCP
31	Judith Melin	Lahey Health
32	Kassandra Mendez	Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
33	Ariane Michelson	UMass Med
34	Michelle Moran	UMass Med
35	Michael Ottey	Seqirus
36	Katie Paciorkowski	Town of Dedham
37	Kelly Palm	Town of Westfield
38	Biyanka Patel	Bavarian Nordic
39	Stephanie Putnam	Bentley University
40	Andrew Rennekamp	Seqirus
41	Leslie Salas Karnes	Mass League of Community Health Centers
42	Sherry Schilb	Sanofi
43	Amy Sgueglia	MAIC
44	Taeko Strassel	UMass Med



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45	Kathleen Talbot	Pfizer
46	Pejman Talebian	MA DPH
47	Tim Temple	Pfizer
48	Elizabeth Valett	American Cancer Society
49	Kristen Van Epps	Moderna
50	Debra Vescera	Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health
51	Kelly Welch	MVCP
52	Amanda Wilhoit	MAIC
53	Pamela Worthington	MA DPH

### MAIC Updates

- Join us for the 30th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference!
  - When? Tuesday, March 25, 2025 from 7:00AM to 4:30PM
  - Where? Boston Marriott Newton - 2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA
  - What? Organized by the Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition (MAIC), this event is the largest adult immunization activity in the Commonwealth. The overall goal is to educate Massachusetts healthcare professionals on current and best practices for adult immunization. The 2025 conference offers an opportunity to receive the most updated information on routine adult immunization from leading experts in the field and network with immunization experts and colleagues.
  - Register for the conference and explore our speakers [here!](#)
- Nominate an individual or organization for the MAIC Champion Award!
  - The Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition (MAIC) is accepting nominations for its Massachusetts Adult Immunization Champion award. The annual award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution or effort to promote or foster adult immunization in Massachusetts.
  - The recipient will be an individual or an organization that has demonstrated particular leadership, initiative, innovation, collaboration and/or advocacy in promoting adult immunization. The award will be presented at the 30th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. We will also feature the winner on the MAIC website.
  - Submit your nominations by February 14, 2025 [at this link](#).
- Join us for some upcoming webinars as part of our Vaccine Education Webinar Series!
  - 2/26 @ 12 PM ET - Immunization in Immigrant Communities: Challenges and Best Practices (Registration Forthcoming)



## Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting

- 3/6 @ 12 PM ET - 2025 Immunization Schedules Update ([Register Here](#))
- 3/19 @ 12 PM ET - Pertussis Update (Registration Forthcoming)

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### Adult Immunization Update

Angela Fowler, MD, MPH - MA Department of Public Health

[Presentation Slides](#)

- **COVID-19**
  - In the absence of the vaccination program, there would have been approximately 1.1 million additional COVID-19 deaths and more than 10.3 million additional hospitalizations in the U.S. by November 2021
  - June 2024 ACIP Meeting - No recommendation for additional doses of 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for older adults
  - Rates of COVID-19 associated hospitalizations among adults >65 years have decreased over time
  - Fewer than half of adults ages 65 and up hospitalized with COVID-19 received any COVID-19 vaccine since September 2022
  - With time, the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines does wane
  - Older adults recommended to receive a second dose
- **Pneumococcal Disease**
  - Introduction of PCV in 2010 helped reduce disease in entire population
  - June 2024 ACIP Meeting - Agreed that available evidence supports PCV21 use for adults currently recommended to receive a PCV but could not reach a consensus on whether the age-based recommendation for PCVs should be lowered from >65 years to >50
  - IPD mortality rate in adults aged 65 and older has become closer to that of adults age 50-64
  - Disparities in pneumococcal vaccine coverage by race/ethnicity exist for both age-based and risk-based infections
  - Black adults have higher rates of pneumococcal disease at younger ages than non-Black adults. Lowering the age recommendation to 50 from 65 may help decrease racial disparities for pneumococcal disease
  - PCV is now recommended for all PCV naive adults aged 50 and older
- **RSV**
  - Will be talking about RSV in a younger at-risk population at the next ACIP meeting
- **Meningococcal**
  - FDA approved a new dosing schedule for GSK MenB vaccine (Bexsero) that matches the schedule for Pfizer MenB vaccine (Trumenba)
  - GSK pentavalent vaccine is on the agenda for discussion at the February ACIP meeting

### Questions

- Do you have more information as to why Bexsero's admin schedule was changed?



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- There was not explicit data comparing the previous schedule of 1 month intervals to the current schedule. The currently recommended schedule provides better immunogenicity. Less confusion with administration.
- For meningococcal vax, what age group is considered young adult?
  - Quad → adolescent would receive it at age 11 and then age 16
  - Meningococcal B administration is based on shared clinical decision making between the ages of 16 and 23.

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### Bavarian Nordic Mpox Update

Biyanka Patel, Medical Services Liaison - Bavarian Nordic

[Presentation Slides](#)

- Mpox is a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus
- Two distinct clades:
  - Outbreak in 2022-23 global Mpox outbreak is predominantly due to Clade 2b
  - The 2023-23 DRC Mpox outbreak is predominantly due to Clade 1b
- Mpox is primarily transmitted to humans from animals via bites, scratches, direct contact with bodily fluids, lesions, contaminated material or via consumption of infected, inadequately cooked meat
- Three stages of infection = Incubation → Prodrome → Eruptive
- In the 2022-23 Mpox outbreak there have been >93,000 confirmed cases across 117 countries
- There has been a recent dramatic decline in Mpox cases in non-endemic countries due to multiple factors, including vaccination
- Despite the recent decline in Mpox cases in the US, transmission is unlikely to be eliminated in the near future
- ACIP recommends vaccination with JYNNEOS for persons aged 18 years and older at risk for Mpox
- JYNNEOS is approved for the prevention of smallpox and monkeypox disease in adults 18 years of age and older determined to be at high risk for smallpox or monkeypox infection
- In August 2024, WHO declared Mpox a global public health emergency for second time in two years
- Still approx. 1-10 cases per week in the United States
- Concerns for resurgence remain
- Global changes in spread of disease continue
- WHO releases Standing Recommendations for Mpox

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### Epworth Vaccine Clinic Presentation

Arienne Michelson and Celine Cano-Ruiz - Epworth Vaccine Clinic Coordinators

[Presentation Slides](#)

- Epworth Free Medical Clinic - Offers several medical and specialty services to Worcester-area residents, most of whom are uninsured or newly immigrated families



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- Medical student-run free clinic comprised of a multidisciplinary team
- Epworth Free Vaccine Clinic provides free immunizations to uninsured/underinsured Worcester residents
- Timeline → Officially opened for pediatric vaccinations in March 2022, expanded in March 2023 to provide vaccinations to both uninsured and underinsured adults
- All vaccines received are state supplied
- In January 2024, the team began implementing several quality improvement initiatives
  - Streamlined documentation procedures
  - Improved historical vaccine record review and documentation
  - Completed massive supply room overhaul
  - Collaborated with Medical Program registration team
  - Developed a comprehensive training manual
  - Created interactive educational modules
  - Implemented formal onboarding procedures
- Vaccine Clinic Initiatives
  - Kids Comfort Promise Program → to reduce fear around needles primarily for pediatric patients but also offered to adults
  - Teddy Bear Clinic at UMass Memorial → Taught children how to vaccinate their stuffed animals using the KCP tools
  - Taught medical students how to give intramuscular injections
  - WICCS Health Fair → Mobile COVID-Flu clinic at the Worcester Islamic Center
- Impact of Initiatives
  - Increased immunization rates from 2023 to 2024
- Challenges in Adult Immunization
  - Identifying eligible patients, many of their patients don't know their level of MassHealth coverage
    - Difficult to assess eligibility in the moment
    - Leads to patients who may be eligible being turned away from accessing vaccines on that day
  - Vaccines that are indicated in certain adult populations are not available per state-supplied vaccine guidelines (ex. HPV)
- Next Steps
  - Expand vaccine storage capacity
  - Assist nursing volunteers at the Akwaaba student-run free clinic in launching a vaccine program
  - Implement mobile vaccine clinics at local high schools
  - Continue improving immunization rates in the local community

### Resources

- [Epworth Free Vaccine Clinic Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [Vaccine Clinic Consult Form](#)



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### Shingrix and Medicare Part D Presentation

Sue DeRemer, Sr. Private Account Manager, Vaccines - GSK

- Medicare Part D patients will have a \$0 copayment for SHINGRIX at the Pharmacy, not at the Doctor's office
- 98% of privately insured will have a \$0 copayment for SHINGRIX
- Less than 50% of eligible patients have gotten this vaccine
- Lenny Demers - If practices partner with VaxCare, they can vaccinate patients 65+ with SHINGRIX in the office (because we are contracted with Medicare).

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### Updates from the Field

- Kelly Welch, Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project:
  - The Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project is excited to offer [a new program through Vaccinate Your Family](#) to improve Community Health Workers' ability and confidence to encourage vaccination and navigate people to vaccine services.
    - Have had 12 completions! Anticipating more completions since 60+ have registered.
  - Have been working with dentists on promoting the HPV vaccine/becoming HPV vaccinators
  - Martha's Vineyard Vaccine Task Force → working to improve vaccine confidence, led by Dave Caron who will be presenting at the MAIC Conference!
  - Training on motivational interviewing coming up by Boost Oregon
  - [Sign Up for the MVCP Newsletter](#)
- Kristen Van Epps, Moderna:
  - New Medical Science Liaison for Moderna:
    - Dr. Jennifer Tufts, Sr. Manager, Field Medical Advisor | US Medical Affairs
    - (617) 417-310, [Jennifer.Tufts@modernatx.com](mailto:Jennifer.Tufts@modernatx.com)
  - Upcoming Educational Webinar hosted by Moderna US Medical Affairs: From Recommendation to Reality: Improving Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake in Seniors
    - Wednesday, February 12th @ 1:30-2:30pm
    - To Register: Vaccination in Older Adults (65+) registration - Webex
- Kathleen Talbot, Pfizer: Sharing link to updated Abrysvo® package insert [Package Insert - ABRYSVO](#), which includes data from the post-marketing observational study of the risk of Guillain-Barre syndrome following vaccination with Abrysvo® in Medicare beneficiaries 65 years of age and older. Please feel free to reach out if you would like additional information regarding this update. Thank you!