



Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting

Virtual Meeting, January 27, 2026 - 10:00am - 12:00pm ET
MAIC Meeting Minutes

Topic	Topic Leader
Welcome	Rich Baker - MAIC
Perinatal HBV/Birth Dose Update	Laurie Courtney, MSN, RN - MDPH, Immunization Nurse Manager & Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator
Text Message Reminders to Promote Vaccination in Primary Care Settings	Kimberly Fisher, MD - UMass Memorial Medical Center
Adult Immunization/ACIP Update	Angela Fowler, MD - MDPH Immunization Division, Associate Medical Director for Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Clinical Influenza/Vaccine Update	Andrew Rennekamp - CSL Seqirus
MISSION READY: HPV Prevention and Prevalence in the Military	Kelly Welch - Team Maureen, Executive Director
Community Updates	MAIC Membership

Welcome

Rich Baker - MAIC Facilitator

- [Register for the 2026 Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference](#)
 - March 26, 2026
 - DCU Center - Worcester, MA
- Submit a nomination for the [2026 MAIC Champion](#)
 - Nomination form open until February 27, 2026

CALL FOR 2026 CHAMPION NOMINATIONS

Do you know an individual and/or organization that has demonstrated particular leadership, initiative, innovation, collaboration and/or advocacy in promoting adult immunization? Nominate them for the 2026 MAIC Champion Award!

Submit by: February 27, 2026
Questions? Email maic@jsi.org

Perinatal HBV/Birth Dose Update

Laurie Courtney, MSN, RN - MDPH; laurie.a.courtney@mass.gov

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Questions:

- Laurie- Thank you for this information. Do you have any fact sheets we can include in our prenatal admit packets regarding Hep B? Ideally, in multiple languages.
 - [Public Health Communications Collaborative - For Parents and Other Caregivers: Understanding Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B Vaccine](#)
 - [Hepatitis B Foundation - Fact Check](#)
 - [Hepatitis B Foundation - Vaccine Talking Points](#)
 - [Hepatitis B Foundation - A Lifetime of Protection](#)
 - [Immunization Action Coalition - Give birth to the end of Hep B](#)
 - [Alberta Health Services - Hepatitis B Immun Globulin \(HBIG\)](#)
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Text Message Reminders to Promote Vaccination in Primary Care Settings

Kimberly Fisher, MD - UMass Memorial Medical Center; Kimberly.Fisher@umassmemorial.org

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Questions:

- Thanks, Kim. This is a great study! Were text messages sent before PCP visits to take advantage of clinics that could offer the vaccine?
 - We did not have the resources to coordinate who has an upcoming visit. However, this coordination could potentially be more impactful.
 - I'm aware of outreach text messages that include hyperlinks to the PCP call center to schedule a visit. Have you looked into this?
 - Using text messages to coordinate logistics whether it is an upcoming visit or introducing capacity to schedule a visit is a great idea; but unfortunately we were unable to do this with the way our platform was designed.
 - Can you explain what you mean by vaccine "and offer"?
 - The offer would be the *offer* to provide a vaccination at a particular visit, not the vaccination itself.
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Adult Immunization/ACIP Update

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

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- National peak for respiratory illness season was ~3 weeks ago, rates have been declining since then



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- CDC is characterizing this year's influenza as moderate overall, with high severity for the pediatric population
- 19 million illnesses and 10,000 deaths from flu this season so far
 - MA has seen 104 deaths from flu this season, 6 of those have been pediatric
- Influenza vaccine effectiveness last season was in the ~40s range for multiple populations
- Omicron period → 1.5% of vaccinated individuals were hospitalized compared to 5.3% of unvaccinated individuals
- Delta period → 2.4% of vaccinated individuals were hospitalized compared to 9.8% of unvaccinated individuals
- Lower odds of contracting long COVID if you were vaccinated
- Overall COVID vaccination rate in MA is 12%
- Some studies have found that having certain infections is associated with increased risk of dementia
 - Adult vaccinations, particularly against shingles, influenza, pneumococcus, and Tdap, are associated with a lower risk of dementia
- Vaccine adjuvants: components of vaccine formulas that are designed to enhance the immunogenicity of vaccines when administered in conjunction with vaccine antigens
 - Reduce the number of required booster shots
 - Contribute to durable protection
 - Aluminum adjuvants were the first to be licensed for use in human vaccines
 - Large scale epidemiological studies show there is no association between aluminum adjuvants and neurotoxicity and autism

Clinical Influenza/Vaccine Update

Andrew Rennekamp - CSL Seqirus; Andrew.Rennekamp@seqirus.com

- Antigenic drift does not equal vaccine failure
- Vaccine effectiveness varies from year to year, typically in the 30-60% range
- Seasonal influenza vaccines include composition to protect from different influenza subtypes: A/H1N1 A/H3N2 and B/Victoria
- New H3N2 virus, Subclade K, began circulating in Summer 2025 and started becoming a dominant strain across the world in September
 - Were not able to update the vaccine quickly enough to include protection from Subclade K before the influenza season took off
- The seasonal influenza vaccine that we currently have remains effective despite the strain drift of Subclade K
- It's not too late to vaccinate!

MISSION READY: HPV Prevention and Prevalence in the Military

Kelly Welch - Team Maureen, Executive Director; Kelly.teammaureen@gmail.com

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- Mission of Team Maureen is to end cervical cancer by educating about the HPV-Cancer connection and the importance of prevention and early detection
 - HPV is the most common STI in the United States
 - Causes 6 types of cancers
 - 8 in 10 unvaccinated people will be infected
 - 42 million people infected
 - HPV vaccine can prevent 90% of cancers caused by HPV
 - Everyone should be vaccinated regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation
 - Active duty military service members and veterans are twice as likely as the general population to develop oncogenic HPV infections, resulting in a higher risk of HPV-caused cancers
 - Vaccination rates are less among veterans and active-duty military compared to the general population
 - Service members can sometimes be required to get close to 20 vaccines, HPV is not one of the required vaccines, although it is recommended
 - Changes to the required schedule requires an actual act of Congress
 - HPV vaccine is covered by TriCare insurance for members and their families, which is important given the expense of the HPV vaccine
 - **Website:** missionreadyhpv.org
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Community Updates

- [Announcement from the Northeast Public Health Collaborative \(NEPHC\)](#)
- [Fact Checked: Vaccines: Safe and Effective, No Link to Autism from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [MAFV Advocacy Day](#) on Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Contact Information:		
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