

## **Communications Bulletin** 8/29/2024

### Attachments:

- Memo to Retailers regarding unregulated psychoactive cannabis product enforcement
- Missouri's Maternal Mortality Report (PAMR), press release (both are **EMBARGOED** until Aug 30<sup>th</sup>); talking points (for internal use only)
- Fall vaccine guidance by Katelyn Jetelina

### New on the [LPHA Info Hub](#) (indicated by **NEW!**):

- Communications box: Communicating More Effectively About Vaccines toolkit from PHCC
- Data box: Rural Transit Fact Book 2024
- Training box: Roots of Health Inequity training from NACCHO
- Hot topics: WalMart apple juice recall; Missouri SuN Bucks; VFC Provider Update; FDA COVID vaccine updates
- Calendar: new webinars and conferences added (see those marked **NEW!** Below)

## **UPDATES**

**Press Release 8/29/2024:** DHSS to begin unregulated psychoactive cannabis product enforcement efforts

- Press Release: <https://health.mo.gov/news/newsitem/uuid/3d99c66c-59b6-4fba-b504-d8bb8e76a3c9/dhss-to-begin-unregulated-psychoactive-cannabis-product-enforcement-efforts>
- Memo to retailers (**see attached**)
- FAQ and Report a Retailer form: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/enviro-health-services/unreg-psychoactive-cannabis-products.php>

**EMBARGOED** until Friday, August 30: **Missouri's Maternal Mortality Report** (PAMR) will be published tomorrow and a press release sent out. The report and press release are **attached** to this email so that you can prepare to help promote the report and respond to inquiries. Please do not share either piece until after the products are shared publicly by DHSS tomorrow.

- Report (**see attached**)
- Press Release (**see attached**)
- Talking points (**see attached**)

### **COVID vaccine update** from DHSS Bureau of Immunizations:

#### **FDA Announces Approval and Authorization of Updated COVID-19 Vaccines**

On August 22, 2024, the [U.S Food and Drug Administration took action approving and authorizing for emergency use updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines](#) formulated to target currently circulating variants and to provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. These actions relate to updated mRNA vaccines for 2024–2025 manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc., which have been updated to include a monovalent (single) component that corresponds to the Omicron variant KP.2 strain.

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (2024–2025 Formula): people 6 months and older

- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (2024–2025 Formula): people 6 months and older

The 2023–2024 Novavax COVID-19 vaccine remains authorized but is no longer available in the United States, as all doses have expired. Accordingly, at this time, CDC recommendations for use of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine have been removed. CDC recommendations will be updated if FDA approves or authorizes additional 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccines.

### **2023–2024 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Are No Longer Authorized**

As part of FDA's actions, the 2023–2024 Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the United States. To minimize the risk of vaccine administration errors, providers should:

- **Remove all 2023–2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from storage units immediately, even if they are not expired.**
- Once all inventory is fully accounted for, delete 2023–2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine listings from the available vaccine inventory in your Immunization Information System, as applicable.
- **Return all unused 2023–2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines** to CDC's centralized distributor using the normal process for returning spoiled/expired vaccines.

**Meningococcal B vaccine update:** On August 19, 2024, the FDA approved an updated package insert for the Bexsero Meningococcal B vaccine that included a change to the vaccine schedule. ACIP will review the new scheduling guidelines during their October 2024 meeting. In the interim, providers should refer to the updated Bexsero package insert for the current FDA-approved schedule as summarized below:

- Two doses given six months apart, or
- Three doses given at 0, 1-2, and 6-month intervals

Contact Lana Hudanick, Nurse Manager, at [lane.hudanick@health.mo.gov](mailto:lane.hudanick@health.mo.gov) or 314-982-8260 with questions.

## **RECALLS**

WalMart voluntarily recalls 8 oz bottles of Great Value apple juice due to high levels of inorganic arsenic (8/24/2024) <https://tinyurl.com/yc7txusv>

## **NEWS**

**8/28/2024:** CDC reports a total of 57 cases and 9 deaths (including 6 new deaths) so far in the Boar's Head liverwurst Listeria outbreak. <https://tinyurl.com/scsjjy2x>

**8/27/2024:** HHS announces more than \$558 million in funding to improve maternal health. <https://tinyurl.com/y8xp54s>

**8/25/2024:** Health officials urge schools to encourage COVID vaccination, regular testing, and best practices to prevent the virus from spreading at school. <https://tinyurl.com/4tewe856>

**8/23/2024:** US households will be able to order up to four free COVID nasal swab tests from the federal government through [COVIDtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov) starting in late September <https://tinyurl.com/2vtaeuec>

**8/23/2024:** CDC will be distributing \$62 million to state and local health departments to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to adults who couldn't otherwise afford them. Access to COVID antiviral treatment is also available for people who are uninsured or underinsured through the government's [Paxcess](#) program, which will be taken over by Pfizer in 2025, and through [Merck's patient assistance program](#). <https://tinyurl.com/2s3d6ed7>

## RESOURCES

**Missouri SuN Bucks** is a new program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer months of June, July, and August. Families will get a one-time \$120 benefit per qualifying child loaded onto an EBT card. These funds can be used to buy nutritious foods at authorized locations. Eligible children can also participate in other summer meal programs, and receiving SUN Bucks has no effect on immigration status. Learn more: <https://mydss.mo.gov/SuNBucks> **Apply by August 31, 2024:** <https://www.healthytogether.co/onboarding/missouri-sun-bucks>

**Healthbeat** launches as a new public health news reporting agency in partnership between Civic News Company and KFF Health News. <https://www.healthbeat.org/about-healthbeat/>

**Rural Transit Fact Book 2024**, North Dakota State University. Includes Missouri data. <https://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/downloads/dp-325.pdf>

**Roots of Health Inequity online training** course from NACCHO; also in Spanish; facilitator's guide also available <https://tinyurl.com/5dyz6xk6>

**Health in All Policies Evaluation Tool**, ASTHO: <https://tinyurl.com/4fnrs9fm>

**New Approaches to Vaccine Communications**, Public Health Communications Collaborative

- View webinar recording and view slide deck: <https://tinyurl.com/nvxcjpsx>
- Communicating More Effectively About Vaccines toolkit: <https://tinyurl.com/yxcxre6k>
- "Keeps It That Way" unbranded childhood vaccination campaign materials from CDC available through email request to [ISDchildhoodVax@cdc.gov](mailto:ISDchildhoodVax@cdc.gov)
- Messaging strategies from Public Health Communications Collaborative: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/>

## WEBINARS/TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Sept 2, 9:00 – 10:00 am, **Environmental Childcare Invoice Training**, hosted by DHSS BEHS. This is a repeat of Aug 1 and Aug 5 sessions. Training is encouraged, but not mandatory. For more information or to register, contact [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov)

Sept 5, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at 1111 W Pine St, Poplar Bluff, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your

schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

**NEW!** Sept 5, 1:00 pm, **Supporting Your Community During a CBRNE Incident: The Role of Reception Centers**, hosted by UNMC. Register: [https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G-41lmAoQVWOybm0pmJpsQ#/registration](https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G-41lmAoQVWOybm0pmJpsQ#/registration)

Sept 10 – 12, **Principles of Epidemiology**, Jefferson City (in person); to learn more about pre-requisites and register, visit: <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/communicabledisease/upcomingevents.php>

Sept 11, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at Library Center, 4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

**NEW!** Sept 12, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, **The Role of AI in Advancing Public Health**, hosted by ICF International; Register: <https://www.icf.com/events/health/2024/09/role-of-ai-advancing-public-health>

Sept 17, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at Powder Valley Conservation Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

Sept 17 – 19 **MPHA Joint Annual Public Health Conference**, Columbia. Register: <https://mophaevents.org/>

**NEW!** Sept 17, 12:00 – 1:30 pm, **A Vote for Health: LGBTQ+ Rights**, Boston University School of Public Health. This program will consider the intersection of the 2024 election and LGBTQ+ health. We will explore the sociopolitical forces that shape LGBTQ+ health and reflect on how public health can better engage with these forces to advance the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ populations. Register <https://tinyurl.com/8p927t58>

Sept 25, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at Oak Woods Conservation Center, 1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

**NEW!** Sept 26, **National Healthy Aging Symposium: Innovation Across the Age-Friendly Ecosystem**, hosted by ODPHP and Trust for America's Health, free online virtual event. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9meyvb>

Sept 26, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at Comfort Inn and Suites, 1821 N Missouri Street, Macon, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

**NEW!** Oct 1 – 2. **Missouri Food Safety Task Force Conference**, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Columbia. Agenda is being finalized, but topics include Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) training opportunities, MU lab resources, Rapid Response Team (RRT), basic fundamentals of HACCP, food safety panel discussion, and more! Conference registration, hotel room reservation instructions, and agenda will be sent via listserv soon. Contact [Paige.Anderson@health.mo.gov](mailto:Paige.Anderson@health.mo.gov) with any questions.

Oct 3, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Environmental Childcare Training**, at DHSS, 930 Wildwood Drive, Jefferson City, MO. Hosted by DHSS. Full attendance at one of the listed sessions is required by inspectors conducting childcare sanitation inspections. Registration is not required. If none of the dates work with your schedule, please reach out to your BEHS district staff to discuss options. Please direct general questions to [environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov](mailto:environmentalchildcare@health.mo.gov).

**NEW!** Oct 27 – 30, **APHA Annual Meeting and Expo**, Minneapolis. Register: <https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>

Oct 29 – 30, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (29<sup>th</sup>) and 8:00 am – 11:30 am (30<sup>th</sup>), **Fall Preparedness Summit**, Mill Bottom, 400 W Main Street, Jefferson City. Registration details coming soon.