

Immunization Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: July 25, 2025

Time: 2:31 PM – 3:28 PM

Called to Order By: Chair Marielle Fricchione, MD

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 2:31 PM by Chair Marielle Fricchione. Agenda available on the IDPH website.

Roll call conducted by Jessica Bounds.

Present:

- Marielle Fricchione, MD
- Rebecca Doran, MSN, RN, NCSN
- Craig Batterman, MD, FAAP
- Amanda Minor, MPH, LEHP
- Bessey Geevarghese, DO
- Suzanne Spychala, RN
- Allison Bartlett, MD, MS
- Patrick Harper, PharmD, MPH
- Theresa Wilburn, BSN, RN
- Denise Flores, BSN, RN
- Garth Reynolds, BSPHarm, RPh, MBA
- Edward Linn, MD

Absent:

- Janet Jokela, MD

Quorum: Achieved.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Bessey Geevarghese, seconded by Rebecca Doran.

Votes:

- Ayes: Marielle Fricchione, Rebecca Doran, Amanda Minor, Bessey Geevarghese
- Abstentions: Craig Batterman, Suzanne Spychala, Allison Bartlett, Patrick Harper, Theresa Wilburn, Denise Flores, Garth Reynolds, Edward Linn
- Absent: Janet Jokela

Outcome: Minutes approved.

III. Director's Remarks – Dr. Sameer Vohra

Director Vohra welcomed members to the first IAC meeting of 2025 and provided updates on national immunization policy changes. He reminded the group of the recent 'Dear Colleague' letters he sent acknowledging that HHS bypassed typical ACIP processes, leading to confusion around COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for pregnant individuals and children. He emphasized IDPH's ongoing commitment to science-based, evidence-driven guidance and the importance of transparency in state-level recommendations. Vohra noted the removal of 17 ACIP members, including Illinois' own Karyn Lyons, and reiterated the state's role in ensuring public trust during this uncertain period. He asked the committee to reflect on key immunization priorities for the state, the kinds of data and subject matter expert input that would help support the committee's work, and how the IAC can continue to serve as a trusted advisory body moving forward. He also acknowledged Dr. Arvind Goyal and Rebecca Doran for their years of service on the committee.

IV. Immunization Program Update – Karyn Lyons

Karyn Lyons, Immunization Section Chief at IDPH, presented key back-to-school initiatives. She shared 2024–2025 school-level vaccination coverage data, including breakdowns by county, ZIP code, and individual school. Given rising measles cases nationally, Lyons introduced the new Measles Simulator Dashboard, developed by IDPH staff using a UT Austin model. The tool predicts the likelihood and duration of measles outbreaks at the school level and allows for scenario testing with customizable inputs. She also highlighted the newly launched Head Start Dashboard, which monitors vaccination coverage for young children, including Illinois-required vaccines, as well as non-required but routine childhood vaccinations on the CDC schedule like Hepatitis A and Rotavirus. Additional outreach included a statewide survey of school nurses, collaboration with LHDs to support local strategies, and a new social media campaign targeting parents and caregivers.

V. Discussion on Vaccine Guidance & Policy

Committee members responded to recent federal developments by calling for clear, science-based vaccine guidance in Illinois. Dr. Fricchione emphasized the need for a shared understanding of trusted guidance sources, including AAP and the Red Book, particularly as ACIP undergoes changes. Members discussed the implications of vaccine reimbursement policies that may not align with scientific recommendations, and the importance of providing real-time communication tools to help providers

address questions from patients. Garth Reynolds highlighted concerns from pharmacists and other providers about navigating reimbursement tied to shifting federal guidance and emphasized the need for consensus on evidence-based sources. Craig Batterman noted that patients were already seeking early vaccinations out of fear of losing access and called on IDPH to keep providers informed. The group broadly supported expanded education efforts, greater visibility into VFC access, and alignment across federal, state, and local messaging channels. Areas of focus suggested for the future included: vaccine confidence, vaccine reimbursement, school vaccination coverage and exemptions, vaccine preventable disease outbreaks, legislative opportunities, and coalition building.

VI. Public Comment

Stephanie Atella (ICAAP) emphasized vaccination gaps among Medicaid-enrolled and minority children. Advocated for focused efforts to improve equity and access.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Craig Batterman, seconded by Garth Reynolds. Motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Marielle Fricchione at 3:28 PM.