

Subject:

TVFC/ASN Program News

## 2022-23 Flu Season Coverage Rates Released

Flu vaccination rates in Texas for the 2022-2023 season mostly decreased when compared with the 2021-2022 season, with a single exception. Flu vaccination rates for the 2022-2023 season:

- Declined for adults 65 and older by 9.1%
- Declined for adults 18 and older by 4.4%
- Increased for children aged 5 to 12 by 4.8%

**Table 1: Influenza Vaccination Coverage Estimates by Age Groups from the 2021-22 Season to the 2022-23 Season for Texas \***

| <b>Age Groups</b>  | <b>Texas<br/>2021-22<br/>Season</b> | <b>Texas<br/>2022-23<br/>Season</b> | <b>TX Percentage Point<br/>Difference</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 6 months – 4 years | 68.7%                               | 63.9%                               | -4.8%                                     |
| 5-12 years         | 55.0%                               | 59.8%                               | 4.8% <sup>a</sup>                         |
| 13-17 years        | 51.0%                               | 47.3%                               | -3.7%                                     |
| 18+ years          | 43.0%                               | 38.6%                               | -4.4% <sup>a</sup>                        |
| 18-49 years        | 31.9%                               | 28.6%                               | -3.3%                                     |
| 50-64 years        | 47.3%                               | 45.0%                               | -2.3%                                     |
| 65+ years          | 71.5%                               | 62.4%                               | -9.1% <sup>a</sup>                        |

<sup>a</sup> Significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) in 2022-23 Season compared to 2021-22 Season.

\*This data comes from the National Immunization Survey – Flu (NIS-Flu) which uses self-reported survey data to estimate flu vaccine coverage nationwide each year.

Collaboration and proper preventative measures between health professionals, stakeholders, and citizens are essential to reduce flu

illness, hospitalizations, and deaths in Texas. Vaccination declines emphasize the importance of ongoing efforts to increase flu vaccine uptake, especially among high-risk populations and in areas with low coverage.

Thanks for all you do to fight flu in Texas. Together let's increase the flu vaccination rate in Texas!

For resources on flu immunization, visit [texasflu.org](https://texasflu.org)

For more of the 2022-2023 flu season data see:

[Flu | Texas DSHS](#)

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## **Influenza Doses Expiring**

Influenza doses for the 2023-2024 season are expiring on **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Providers should report vaccine loss for all remaining influenza inventory after this date in the Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System (VAOS) with loss reason as:

- "Expired; did not notify HSR or LHD 90 days before expiration."
- "Expired; notified HSR or LHD 90 days before expiration."

A return label will be sent to the Primary Vaccine Coordinator's e-mail address within seven days of reported vaccine loss in VAOS for all expired doses eligible for return to the Central Distributor. Expired doses should be returned as soon as possible. For more information on reporting vaccine loss in VAOS, visit [TVFC/ASN Vaccine Loss](#).

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## **Storm Season**

**Vaccine Management Plans are a TVFC program requirement. Templates to update your Vaccine Management Plan are available: [Vaccine Management Plan](#).**

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## Proper Storage and Handling of TVFC/ASN Vaccines

One goal of the TVFC and ASN programs is to promote and practice the safe handling of vaccines. This involves safeguarding the cold chain process, which is used to maintain and distribute vaccines in optimal condition from manufacturing until they are administered.

The TVFC and ASN program must adhere to transport, storage, and handling policies.

- Refrigerators and freezers units must be large enough to hold the year's inventory without crowding (such as flu season or back-to-school).
- The refrigerator compartment should maintain a temperature between 36°F and 46°F (2°C and 8°C) for vaccine viability.
- The freezer compartment should maintain a temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C).
- Refrigerators and freezers storing vaccines must be plugged directly into a wall outlet with a plug guard installed.
- Each refrigerator and freezer must contain a sufficient number of water bottles to help maintain proper storage temperature during peak usage or outage. These water bottles should also be labeled "Do Not Drink". Food and beverages should not be stored with vaccines.
- Vaccines with diluent must be kept together in the same box, and diluents must not be frozen.
- Place vaccines with the earliest expiration dates in front of those with later expiration dates.
- Label shelves for proper vaccine identification, including TVFC/ASN program vaccines marked to differentiate them from privately purchased vaccines.



TVFC/ASN sites must also utilize calibrated digital data loggers, as these provide accurate and comprehensive monitoring of temperature excursions to which vaccines may be exposed. Before storing vaccines in your new or repaired storage units, record temperature for seven days using a calibrated data logger. Submit temperatures recordings (twice daily) on the provided form to your Regional Entity (RE).

TVFC/ASN program providers can refer to Chapter 3, Section V: Vaccine Storage and Handling of the [2024 TVFC/ASN Provider Manual](#).

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### Upcoming Webinars

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| 06/28/24 | <b>Webinar:</b> TVFC program Provider Compliance site visits<br><b>Time:</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (CST)<br><b>Registration Link:</b> <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7437579775746340439">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7437579775746340439</a> |
| 07/18/24 | <b>Webinar:</b> Topple Meningococcal Webinar<br><b>Time:</b> Noon – 1:00 p.m. (CST)<br><b>Registration Link:</b> <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4052020742229835863">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4052020742229835863</a>                        |