

## **National Infant Immunization Week: April 24-May 1**

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is a yearly observance highlighting the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). This year, in particular, it is critical to ensure that families stay on track for children's routine checkups and recommended vaccinations — even during COVID-19. As we continue to look towards a returning to regular in person activities, it is important to continue to keep your children vaccinated so that they can participate in all the things that they have been missing in the past year. Even though we have seen an increase in vaccine administration in NH, the national outlook is still behind on vaccines as described below:

A [CDC report](#) released in May 2020 found a troubling drop in routine childhood vaccination because of families staying at home. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that children stay on track with their well-child appointments and routine vaccinations even during the pandemic. As in-person learning and play become more common, on-time vaccination is even more urgent to help provide immunity against 14 serious diseases.

Content source: [National Infant Immunization Week \(NIIW\) | CDC](#)

Looking for Promotional Materials for NIIW? The CDC has multiple media graphics in Spanish and English and options to use them on social media.

[NIIW Digital Media Toolkit | CDC](#)

### **COVID Vaccination and Routine Vaccines:**

It is possible that COVID-19 vaccines will become available to children as young as 12 later this spring or summer and eventually for even younger children based on clinical trials. It is more important than ever to make sure that children are up to date for all of their routine vaccines. CDC recommends a minimum interval of 14 days before and after the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccinations. Being sure that children are up to date now will prevent future delays. . It is important to protect all of the children in your care from any vaccine preventable diseases. While we wait for the green light for adolescents and younger children to start receiving the COVID19 vaccine, encourage your families to get their children up to date with all of their routine vaccines. Remind your families that it is safe to go to your doctor's office to receive routine care, including vaccination. There are processes in place to protect against infection from COVID 19 and other infectious diseases.

**There continues to be a bi-weekly zoom webinar/call for schools presented by NH Division of Public Health Services:**

**Educational and childcare partners** first and third Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm: o

- Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>

- Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
- Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
  - o Password: 197445

**Thank you for all you do today and every day!**