



2026 NCDHHS VACCINES FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE



Please note the agenda is subject to change.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

11:00 am	Check-In	Registration desk in front of Imperial Ballroom	
11:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Exhibits	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor	
1:00 pm	Welcome	Beth Meadows, MSN, RN, CPHN Interim Immunization Branch Director, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Imperial Ballroom
1:15 pm	Reclaiming Trust in a Viral World	Morgan McSweeney, Ph.D. (Dr. NOC ON INSTAGRAM) Medical Communications Consultant	Imperial Ballroom
2:15 pm	Break	Refreshments Available	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor
2:30 pm	Vaccination Landscape in NC	Dr. Kelly Kimple Director Division of Public Health, NC	Imperial Ballroom
3:30 pm	How People Decide to Do New Things	Stacy Wood, Ph.D. Langdon Distinguished University Professor of Marketing,	Imperial Ballroom

		Poole College of Management, North Carolina State University	
4:30 pm	Adjourn		
Thursday, March 5, 2026			
7 am – 8:30 am	Check-in	Registration desk in front of Imperial Ballroom	
7:30 am– 8:30 am	Breakfast	Imperial Ballroom	
8 am 5 pm	Exhibits	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor	
Concurrent Sessions 8:30 am - 10:00 am Some sessions are repeated throughout the conference.			
Vaccine Storage and Handling <i>Discussion of vaccine storage and handling recommendations and requirements.</i>	Agi Ngie Storage and Handling Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Cedar <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</i>	
NC Immunization Law and Exemptions Panel <i>Panel discussion on current NC immunization laws and how practice and clinic providers can address requests for exemptions.</i>	Candy Graham, RN Public Health Nurse Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Beth Meadows, MSN, RN, CPHN Provider Clinical Services Unit Lead NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Virginia Niehaus, JD, MPH Director Regulatory and Legal Affairs, NC DHHS	Oak <i>REPEATS TODAY 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</i>	
Increasing Rates with IQIP <i>Strategies for increasing immunization rates and initiatives to overcome barriers.</i>	Isabel Reynolds, BA Regional Immunization Consultant Supervisor, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Maple <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm</i>	

Immunization 101 <i>Discussion of appropriate anatomic sites for the administration of recommended vaccines, differentiate between subcutaneous and intramuscular vaccine administration, and specify the accurate needle size for the administration of recommended vaccines.</i>	Lori Hall, RN, BSN Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Colony A
Vaccine Preventable Diseases <i>This session will review global, national, and state VPD surveillance data, highlight North Carolina trends, and identify after action items from recent VPD outbreaks. This session will be applicable to all attendees.</i>	Susan Sullivan, MS, RN-BC VPD Nurse Consultant, Communicable Disease Branch, NCDHHS Ty Lautenschlager, MPH VPD Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Branch, NCDHHS	Auditorium I <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</i>
Increasing HPV Rates <i>Review of reports and action items to increase HPV immunization rates.</i>	Rachael Baartmans, MPH Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Jill Pait, MS, CHES Associate Director, State Partnerships, American Cancer Society	Meadowbrook <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</i>
NCIR 101 <i>Discussion of basic principles, proper function of reports, and addition of users and clinicians within the NCIR.</i>	Alex Lingerfelt Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Johanna Helminen, MPH	Pebble Beach <i>REPEATS TODAY 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</i>

	Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	
Public Respiratory Dashboard Review <i>This presentation will highlight the Immunization Branch's Respiratory Vaccine dashboards (currently in review process), designed to share county and demographic level data on COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccination coverage to the public.</i>	Anna Louise McNabb, MS Public Health Informatician NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Auditorium IV <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</i>
10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Exhibits	Exhibit hall on 3rd floor
Concurrent Sessions 10:30 am - 12:00 pm <i>Some sessions are repeated throughout the conference.</i>		
NCIR 101 <i>Presenters will describe the basic principles, proper function of reports, and addition of users and clinicians within the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR).</i>	Alex Lingerfelt Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Johanna Helminen, MPH Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Pebble Beach <i>REPEATED SESSION</i>
Data Quality Initiative: Solving Errors for VFC Providers <i>Through extensive monitoring, tracking, and documentation, NCIR Data Analysts identify and share errors with newly onboarding VFC provider sites to support accurate data entry and improve the quality of information within the immunization registry.</i>	Debra Warren, MBA NCIR Data Quality Specialist, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Cedar <i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i>

<p>NC Immunization Law and Exemptions Panel</p> <p><i>Panel discussion on current NC immunization laws and how practice and clinic providers can address requests for exemptions.</i></p>	<p>Candy Graham, RN</p> <p>Public Health Nurse Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS</p> <p>Beth Meadows, MSN, RN, CPHN</p> <p>Provider Clinical Services Unit Lead NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS</p> <p>Virginia Niehaus, JD, MPH Director Regulatory and Legal Affairs, NC DHHS</p>	<p>Oak</p> <p><i>REPEATED SESSION</i></p>
<p>Annual Reporting College Immunizations/ School Immunizations</p> <p><i>Session covering the reporting cycle for school and/or college immunization compliance, as well as trends in reporting data</i></p>	<p>Lucy Sutter, MPH</p> <p>Immunization Compliance Data Manager, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS</p> <p>Elizabeth Draper, RN, CPHN</p> <p>Public Health Nurse Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS</p>	<p>Maple</p> <p><i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i></p>
<p>Pre-bunking Misinformation on Vaccines and Autism</p> <p><i>Discussion on ways to advocate for vaccines by pre-empting misinformation around the cause of Autism.</i></p>	<p>Dr. Michelle Fiscus, MD, FAAP</p> <p>Chief Medical Officer, Association Immunization Managers (AIM)</p>	<p>Auditorium I</p> <p><i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i></p>
<p>Avoiding Vaccine Errors</p> <p><i>Discussion of methods you can use to avoid vaccine errors and the process if an error occurs.</i></p>	<p>Gail Baker</p> <p>Regional Nurse Consultant Supervisor NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS</p>	<p>Meadowbrook</p> <p><i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i></p>

Preparing for Site Visits <i>Presenters will describe what Immunization Branch consultants examine and common issues found at site visits.</i>	Heather Goodson, RN-BSN Immunization Nurse Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Colony A <i>REPEATS TODAY</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
NCIP Program Basics <i>Presenters will assist with interpreting the provider profile, understanding vaccine ordering, accountability process and the process of documenting wasted, spoiled, and expired vaccines.</i>	Lorri Trail, RN Immunization Nurse Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Becky Stokes, BS Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Colony B <i>REPEATS TODAY</i> 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Lunch Session 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm Plated Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Katz Award 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Dr. Michelle Jones 1:30pm – 2:30 pm		
Presentation of the Katz Award	Brandon Rector	Imperial Ballroom
Combating Vaccine Hesitancy: From one provider to another	Dr. Michelle Jones, FAAFP Wilmington Health	Imperial Ballroom
2:30 pm	Afternoon break	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor
Concurrent Sessions 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm <i>Some sessions are repeated throughout the conference.</i>		
Preparing for Site Visits <i>Discussion of common issues found at site visits and how to mitigate problems.</i>	Heather Goodson, RN, BSN Immunization Nurse Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Colony A <i>REPEATED SESSION</i>

Q&A with Clinical Nurses <i>Presenters will discuss the most common questions posed from the field and identify resources for common vaccine questions.</i>	Candy Graham, RN Public Health Nurse Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Elizabeth Draper, RN, CPHN Public Health Nurse Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Oak <i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i>
North Carolina Viral Respiratory Surveillance Overview <i>Overview of how NC DPH conducts surveillance for influenza, COVID-19, RSV and other respiratory viruses, in addition to sharing most recent respiratory disease trends.</i>	Khalil Harbi, MSPH Public Health Epidemiologist Influenza Surveillance Coordinator Communicable Disease Branch, NCDHHS	Augusta B <i>DOES NOT REPEAT</i>
Public Respiratory Dashboard Review <i>This presentation will highlight the Immunization Branch's Respiratory Vaccine dashboards (currently in review process), designed to share county and demographic level data on COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccination coverage to the public.</i>	Anna Louise McNabb, MS Public Health Informatician, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Auditorium IV <i>REPEATS TODAY 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</i>
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NCIP Basics <i>Demonstration on interpreting NCIP provider profile, understanding the vaccine ordering and accountability process and documenting wasted, spoiled, and expired vaccines.</i>	Lorri Trail, RN Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS Becky Stokes, BS	Colony B <i>REPEATED SESSION</i>

		Regional Immunization Consultant, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	
Vaccine Storage and Handling <i>Discussion of storage and handling recommendations and requirements.</i>		Agi Ngie Storage and Handling Consultant NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Cedar <i>REPEATED SESSION</i>
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4:30 pm		Adjourn	
Friday, March 6, 2026			
7:00 am - 9:00 am		Check-in	Registration desk in front of Imperial Ballroom
7:30 am - 8:30 am		Breakfast	Imperial Ballroom
8:00 am - 12:00 pm		Exhibits	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor
9 am - 10:15 am	Vaccine Advocacy in the Current Environment	Dr. Michelle Ficus Association of Immunization Managers Chief Medical Officer	Imperial Ballroom

10:15 – 10:30am		Morning break	Guilford exhibit hall on 3rd floor
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy	Dr. Christoph Diasio, FAAP Pediatrician, Sandhills Pediatrics	Imperial Ballroom
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Beth Meadows, MSN, RN, CPHN Interim Immunization Branch Director, NC Immunization Branch, NCDHHS	Imperial Ballroom