



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health
Division of Public Health

October 13, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

From: Wendy Holmes, R.N., Head *WH*

Subject: **Preparations for Immunizing Evacuees from Afghanistan and Reporting of Vaccine Preventable Disease**

The purpose of this memo is to notify North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) participants of the expanded use of certain vaccines for US-bound evacuees/refugees coming to North Carolina from Afghanistan. North Carolina is expecting many Afghan evacuees to arrive within the next couple of months under humanitarian parolee status.

The Afghan evacuees will be going through a Department of Homeland Security-coordinated process of secure vetting before being admitted into the United States. Every evacuee who comes into the U.S. also goes through a limited health screening. Evacuees who are 12 and older are required to get the COVID-19 vaccination as a term of their humanitarian parolee status after entering the United States.

Recommendations for Vaccination

People arriving from Afghanistan who have received age-appropriate vaccines should receive an official copy of their vaccination record. However, if clinicians encounter arrivals from Afghanistan who do not have documentation of these vaccines, they should offer measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), as follows:

- One dose of MMR vaccine for everyone aged ≥ 6 months to 64 years (born in or after 1957, and unless medically contraindicated), ideally within 7 days of U.S. entry.
 - A first MMR dose administered to those between 6-11 months of age should be followed by the standard ACIP schedule with doses at ages 12-15 months and 4-6 years.
- One dose of IPV for everyone aged ≥ 6 weeks (including adults), ideally within 7 days of U.S. entry (unless medically contraindicated).
 - For children, this initial dose should be followed by the standard ACIP schedule with doses at 2, 4, and 6-18 months; and at 4-6 years. Adults do not need to receive another dose after the initial dose.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

LOCATION: 5601 Six Forks Road, Building 2, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1917 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1917
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5550 • FAX: 919-870-4824

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- Children and adolescents who start the MMR or IPV series late can follow the catch-up immunization schedule, available at the following link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html>
- Provide all other age-appropriate vaccinations as recommended by the ACIP routine or catch-up schedules. This population is likely to speak Dari, Pashto, and Farsi. Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) in these languages as well as other foreign languages can be found on the Immunization Action Coalition's website: <https://www.immunize.org/vis/?f=8>.

Arrivals *with* official documentation should continue with the recommended Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) routine or catch-up schedules, available at the following link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>.

Additional guidance from CDC on evaluating and updating immunizations for newly arrived evacuees can be obtained through the link below:
<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic/immunizations-guidelines.html>.

The North Carolina Immunization Program Coverage Criteria Supplement has been updated to reflect expanded use of both MMR and IPV for enrolled providers serving evacuees from Afghanistan. This document can be accessed via the following link:
https://immunize.nc.gov/providers/ncip/pdf/ncip_coverage_criteria_supplement_10_11_2021_FINAL.pdf

For additional information regarding ACIP recommendations or the NC Coverage Criteria Supplement, please contact the Immunization Branch Nurse On-Call at 919-707-5575 or via email at ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov.

Clinicians should maintain a high level of awareness for the possible presence of any/all vaccine-preventable diseases among evacuees with compatible signs and symptoms and notify the Communicable Disease Branch of North Carolina Public Health if/when appropriate. Information on how to report vaccine-preventable diseases to the North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch can be found at the following link: <https://immunize.nc.gov/providers/vpdreporting.htm>.