

## Help children and adolescents catch-up on recommended vaccines

After disruptions from COVID-19, it's important that families stay on track with routine vaccinations for infants and children. The [Michigan Care Improvement Registry](#) shows childhood immunization rates have slipped below 70% in over half of all Michigan counties.

As of June 2022, only 65% of Michigan children 19 to 35 months old were up to date on their vaccines. MDHHS is reminding families that vaccinating on time is the best protection against serious illnesses such as measles, hepatitis A and pertussis (whooping cough).

Providers who need an effective communication tool to increase parental confidence in vaccines are encouraged to utilize the [I Vaccinate Provider Toolkit](#). It'll help them prepare for conversations, navigate and track difficult questions and improve their ability to ensure young patients are vaccinated on schedule or help them catch up on missed immunizations.

Michigan vaccinating providers can help get everyone on track with all immunizations and protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination and screening schedules for children and adults are available at [mibluecrosscomplete.com](#).

Providers can also access the [I Vaccinate Provider Toolkit](#) at [provider.ivaccinate.org](#). Click on the "Request Access" button and submit your name, email, organization and title. You have an important role and are appreciated; Blue Cross Complete continues to need your help with these efforts.

## Save the date for our virtual provider conference – October 27, 2022

Blue Cross Complete will be hosting its Fall 2022 virtual provider conference Thursday, October 27, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. exclusively on Zoom. It'll cover the following topics:

- **Trauma informed care**
- **Sexual orientation and gender identity, or SOGI**

Invitations will be sent soon, so be sure to watch your inbox. For more details or questions, contact your Blue Cross Complete [provider account executive](#).

If you're unsure who your account executive is, scroll down to the bottom of the **Resources** page on [mibluecrosscomplete.com](#) to find **County-based contacts for providers**. Select your county, and the name and contact information for the appropriate account executive will appear.

## Quest Diagnostics adds HCV to obstetrics laboratory test panel

Why test all your adult patients and expectant moms for the hepatitis C virus, or HCV? At least 200,000 people in Michigan are living with HCV and many don't know they're infected, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Hepatitis C often spreads silently because people may have no symptoms for many years.

Designed to boost HCV screening rates for pregnant people, Quest Diagnostics recently [launched](#) an obstetrics laboratory test panel, which includes hepatitis C antibody testing with reflex to quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction. This panel allows physicians to screen all eligible pregnant people easily and reliably for HCV and follows [recommendations](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all pregnant patients be screened for HCV.

A recent [study](#) from Quest Diagnostics Health Trends found that less than 41% of expectant mothers were screened for HCV in 2021, based on Quest's laboratory testing of more than five million pregnant patients. The study also found that individuals with Medicaid health insurance were screened at rates 25-35% lower than those with commercial insurance.

For any questions, contact the MDHHS Viral Hepatitis Unit at [MDHHS-Hepatitis@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-Hepatitis@michigan.gov).

Helpful tools and guidance to help eliminate hepatitis C as a health threat are available at [mibluecrosscomplete.com](#). Click on the **Providers** tab and select **Resources** from the drop-down menu. While on the provider resource page, scroll down to **Hepatitis C resources**.

\*Our website is [mibluecrosscomplete.com](#). While website addresses for other organizations are provided for reference, Blue Cross Complete doesn't control these sites and isn't responsible for their content.