Immunization Digest

Employee Spotlight: Bob Wines

Spring is in the mountains, and it’s a time for renewed spirits and energy. After two years of a pandemic, we must make time for hope and optimism as we continue to vaccinate our friends and neighbors.

I have been the director of the Division of Immunization Services since May of 2021, but like you, I have not had a chance to say hello due to the pandemic pressure that has controlled our time. First and foremost, I want to say “Thank You” for all the constant adjustments and patience you have had with the immunization staff, as we have all learned together... we truly appreciate all of you.

I am a 27-year state employee, with the first 15 years in outreach, promotion and marketing with the Department of Commerce. In 2010, I came to DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health to work with the WIC program for outreach and marketing. Then I was chosen to lead the “Change the Future” program in the Office of Community Health Systems and Health Promotion. Once that program ended, I transitioned to the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health to lead the Pediatric Medicaid program on behalf of 250,000 at-risk children across the state. I remained in that role for more than 6 years before diving into the pandemic at the Center for Threat Preparedness and then on to the DIS.

Throughout my tenure with the state, I have always been fortunate to have a great team. DIS has 30 positions divided into 4 separate units that guide the immunization efforts across the state. With more than 800 vaccine providers serving the West Virginia population, we are constantly trouble shooting issues and sharing best practices. As you might guess, my greatest passion is promotion - promotion of our great program, our dedicated staff, as well as you, our vaccination partners across the state. My greatest goal for the immunization program is to tell our story, the lives we have saved through our efforts, the education we have provided and the children we have kept safe through the VFC program.

My door is always open, my email is always active, and my phone is always on for you to reach out with any question or concern. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the months and years to come.

Bob Wines, Director
Division of Immunization Services
Robert.L.Wines@wv.gov
304-352-6266

Immunizations

Our Mission: The mission of the Division of Immunization Services (DIS), located within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, is to promote prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases among children, adolescents, and adults in West Virginia.

According to the CDC, the number of participating COVID-19 vaccine providers outnumbers all U.S. Walmart stores, Dollar General stores, Starbucks and McDonald’s restaurants COMBINED!

West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System (WVSII)

- Vaccine orders received must be documented in WVSII.
- Use Reminder/Recall to notify families when children are behind on vaccines.

Reminders and Important Dates

- CDC now recommends a 2nd COVID-19 booster dose for certain individuals. Please refer to the WV Health Alert for more information.
- It’s time to catch up on vaccines. The pandemic has caused a decline in recommended vaccinations for adolescents. We must continue to be vigilant against vaccine preventative diseases. Some strategies include:
  - Follow up regularly with families who are not in compliance.
  - Partner with school nurses to drive compliance and offer on-site school immunization clinics.

COVID-19

Featured: Visual comparison of West Virginia’s current population that is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by age range.

Comparison of Fully Vaccinated Individuals to Total Remaining Population in April 2022

For more immunization information, visit https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations.

For additional statistics, visit https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19.