

**To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers**

**Date: August 1, 2024**

**Subject: National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)**

**Summary:** During NIAM, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana encourages you to help ensure your patients are up to date on recommended vaccines.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the efforts of AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana healthcare professionals to protect patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccinations. As parents are getting their children ready to return to school, now is a good time to ensure they know the importance of vaccinating them.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that kindergarten vaccination coverage has steadily declined over the past two years and is the lowest it has been in the decade. Getting routine immunizations back on track is a goal that can be achieved by working together through an initiative from the CDC called Let's RISE (Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone). Information/strategies to improve vaccine rates from this program can be found [here](#).

Let's RISE also offers a Provider and School Toolkit which can be accessed via the links below.

- [https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Pages/Evidence Based Strategies and Resources to Increase Routine Vaccination Rates and Confidence.aspx](https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Pages/Evidence%20Based%20Strategies%20and%20Resources%20to%20Increase%20Routine%20Vaccination%20Rates%20and%20Confidence.aspx)
- [https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Lets RISE School Toolkit.pdf](https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Lets%20RISE%20School%20Toolkit.pdf)

Additional information on NIAM and educational resources from the CDC can be found [here](#).

As a reminder, healthcare providers are expected to complete required immunizations for children ages birth through 20 during well-child visits. To comply with this policy, practitioners should enroll in the Louisiana Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to receive vaccines without charge for children with Medicaid from birth to age 18. To enroll, contact the Immunization Program Office at 1-504-568-2600.

**\*Please Note:** Louisiana Medicaid also considers beneficiaries ages 19 and 20 as part of the EPSDT population. Therefore, age-appropriate immunizations are required for these members, although they are outside of VFC.

Immunizations are part of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and are reported annually to the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). The focused measures for HEDIS MY2024 include Childhood Immunizations (CIS) and Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA).

Measurement Year 2024 HEDIS Specifications	
Billing and Documentation	Measure Requirements
<p>Enter immunizations into the <b>LINKS</b> system.</p> <p>Confirm ALL member info/demographics are correct in the <b>LINKS</b> system.</p> <p>Use applicable vaccination code or diagnosis indicating a history of disease.</p> <p>LOINC and SNOMED codes can be captured through electronic data submissions. Contact your Account Executive for more information.</p>	<p><b>Childhood Immunization Status (CIS)</b></p> <p>Children 2 years of age who had the following administered on or <b>before their second birthday</b>:</p> <p>Four diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP); three polio (IPV); one measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); three Haemophilus influenza type B (HiB); three hepatitis B (HepB), one chickenpox (VZV); four pneumococcal conjugates (PCV); one hepatitis A (HepA); two or three rotavirus (RV); and two influenzas (flu)</p>
	<p><b>Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA)</b></p> <p>Children 13 years of age who had the following administered on or <b>before their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday</b>:</p> <p>One dose of meningococcal vaccine; one tetanus, diphtheria toxoids, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine; and have completed the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series.</p>

**Questions:** Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

**Missed an alert?**

You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

**Need to update your provider information?** Send full details to [network@amerihealthcaritasla.com](mailto:network@amerihealthcaritasla.com)

**References:**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html>
- [https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Lets\\_RISE\\_School\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Lets_RISE_School_Toolkit.pdf)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/index.html>