



STATE OF MAINE

**Ninth Report
of the
MAINE VACCINE BOARD**

for the
State Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2019

December 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the ninth annual report of the Maine Vaccine Board (MVB). MVB assessment collections commenced on November 15, 2011. The MVB raises funds to support universal childhood vaccine purchases at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) favorable rates by assessing insurers and other entities responsible for the health benefits afforded to Maine's children. Assessment compliance by insurers continues to be strong and since inception of the program, has increased by 20% resulting in almost 100% of eligible payers participating in the program. The close of the 2018/19 fiscal year saw the MVB continuing to advance in organizational maturity and improved efficiency. The MVB has now completed seven full years of operation.

The MVB annually reviews the vaccine list and received recommendations from the Maine CDC on which vaccines should be on the list available to Maine providers to order. In May 2019, the Maine CDC recommended and the MVB approved Tetanus Diphtheria Toxoid's (Td) addition to the vaccine list as this was the only vaccine currently on the Vaccines for Children (VFC) contract not available for Maine providers.

At the core of MVB's mission is the desire to reduce the occurrences of vaccine preventable disease by increasing medically-appropriate use of vaccines for Maine's children. This year continues MVB's success in that goal. Maine's childhood immunization rates continue to improve. As noted in MVB's VaxFactsSM for 2018/19, primary credit for this significant turnaround should go to the Maine CDC and Maine's pediatric care providers. But the contributions of the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare payers, directly and through MVB, should also be noted as significant. While assisting to advance this goal, MVB also enabled overall systemic cost savings to be realized for the provider community, the insurer community, and Maine families.

State vaccine purchases with MVB funds and distribution to providers began in January 2012. This report contains data for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019:

Fiscal Year 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	
Total Number of Payers (4-qtr average)	97
Total Assessments Raised	\$12,076,745
Average Monthly Child Covered Lives	139,739
Number of Meetings	4

All Board meetings are open to the public and afford opportunity for public comment. Both oral and written comments are welcome. The Board met on 07-27-2018, 10-26-2018, 01-10-2019, and 05-16-2019. Detailed information about the MVB and its operations, including minutes of all board meetings, is available at www.MEvaccine.org.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE MAINE VACCINE BOARD

The history and information regarding the Maine Vaccine Board can be found on our website: www.MEvaccine.org.

THE VACCINE BOARD

The MVB was created by the 124th Legislature through the enactment of Public Law 595. That law took effect on August 2, 2010. The Board originally consisted of ten members, with representatives from the health insurance carrier community, the health provider community, the public health community, self-insuring employers, the pharmaceutical industry, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Treasurer. In 2018, the 128th Legislature passed an amendment to the statute removing the Treasurer of State from the Board and the Board now consists of nine members. Peter M. Gore currently serves as Board chair. Tonya Philbrick has served as the interim designee for the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services since the beginning of 2018. With the exception of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry representative, who serves a one-year term, the terms of Board members are three years.

PROGRAM PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT RATE HISTORY

The State of Maine began purchasing vaccines for non-VFC eligible children January 1, 2012. Maine became a universal vaccine purchasing state and purchased vaccines for all Maine children at the same favorable federal CDC contract rates negotiated with vaccine manufacturers for the VFC program. As the program has matured Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has worked to aid in enhancing the program.

MVB has adopted eight assessment rate changes since its formation. These rate changes occur each year and in 2015 the rate changes moved from a state fiscal year calculation to a calendar year calculation. The fluctuation in rates over the years is a response to many factors, some of which include: increased vaccine utilization, continuous effort by KidsVax® to broaden the assessment base, increased participation by the insurers, increased vaccine costs, new vaccine recommendations, and inventory management by Maine CDC.

On September 20, 2019, MVB voted to set the assessment rate to \$7.96 per child covered life per month for 2020. At the same time, MVB advised payers that its best estimate of the assessment rate for 2021 would be \$8.93 per child covered life per month.

MVB Assessment Rates	
2011/2012	\$6.98
2012/2013	\$6.81
2013/2014	\$8.16
2015*	\$8.16
2016	\$9.19
2017	\$3.17
2018	\$8.29
2019	\$4.56

*An annual assessment review began in 2015 moving from a fiscal year assessment rate to a calendar year assessment rate. The assessment rate remained at \$8.16 of the remainder of calendar year 2014.

As a result of, MVB's oversight of the universal vaccine program and collaborative efforts of Maine CDC, the payer community and many others, Maine continues to make progress in increasing the immunization rates in Maine as well as access for all Maine children. This is particularly important as a way to improve the health of all Mainers by reducing or eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, there is a multiplier effect of childhood immunization dollars in reducing long term healthcare costs. Experts estimate the long-term financial cost reduction through disease avoidance at over \$10 for each \$1 of childhood immunization costs. This cost benefit to healthcare payers, of course, is in addition to the indirect benefits of improved health and decreased loss of work hours.

CONCLUSION

MVB will continue to seek out avenues to increase the efficiency, equity, and effectiveness of the program for payers and providers. MVB is grateful for the support of its key constituents: payers, providers, and the Maine CDC. A special thank you to the Board members and their employers (who allow time for this service to the state without charge), the staff of the Maine CDC, the Maine State Treasurer's Office, and the Office of the Attorney General, all of whom have facilitated its work in improving childhood health in the State of Maine. Other agencies, including MVB's analyst, BerryDunn have provided expertise and support to the board.

Attached are Exhibits A, B, and C. These further illustrate the cost savings, increased access to immunizations and benefits of the universal vaccine purchasing program respectively.

Please note this report has been compiled by Nicole G. Price who serves the MVB as its servicing agent through a turnkey Executive Director and Administrative Services Agreement with KidsVax®, LLC. Nicole can answer any questions that may arise from this report.



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Exhibit A

FYE 6/30/2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MVB Program Savings Calculations for FYE 6/30/2019 & FYE 6/30/2018*

	FYE 6/30/2019	FYE 6/30/2018
A. CDC survey Market Comparison costs (Actual doses per band x CDC market survey	\$16,695,919	\$18,925,339
B. MVB Program Costs		
Cost of vaccine replenishments	\$11,732,696	\$13,347,946
+ Operating costs	202,872	150,543
+ Leakage & Bad Debt	-	-
= Total Program Costs	\$11,935,568	\$13,498,489
C. MVB Program Savings (A-B=C)	\$4,760,351	\$5,426,850
D. Program Savings % (C/A=D)	28.51%	28.68%

*Data calculated by Peter M. Smith, an independent Financial & Internal Control Analyst. The complete MVB FYE 6/30/2019 Cost Savings Memo can be found at www.MEvaccine.org.

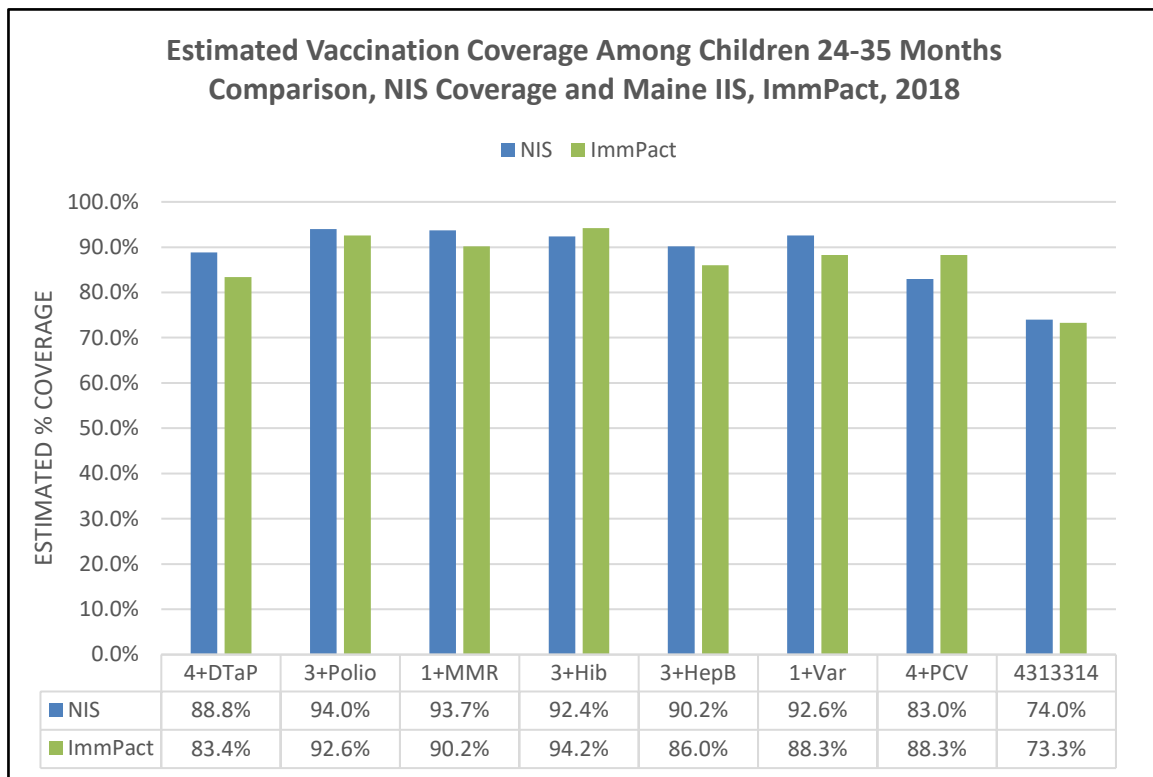
LD 798

The Maine Legislature passed and Governor Mills signed into law P.L. c. 154 (LD 798) which removed all non-medical exemptions for children. The only group grandfathered into continuing to receive non-medical exemptions from immunizations were students receiving special education services if the exemption is claimed prior to September 2021 when the new law goes into effect. The new law may impact the Maine Universal Children's Immunization Program as 6.2% of all Maine children claimed an exemption from immunizations and 12% of that 6.2% secured a medical exemption. A People's veto effort is underway with a referendum vote in March 2020. The new law has been stayed pending the outcome of the vote.

Exhibit B

The graph below represents vaccination coverage for Maine’s 2-year-old children. It illustrates vaccination coverage as compiled by the 2018 National Immunization Survey (NIS) and ImmPact, the Maine specific database.

- NIS uses data to monitor vaccination coverage among 2-year-old children at both the national and state levels. 25,059 children aged 19-35 months were included in the NIS survey, only 425 of which resided in Maine, representing 3.6% of Maine’s 2-year-old population.
- ImmPact’s cohort of children includes 11,889 Maine residents aged 24-35 months.
- ImmPact is the immunization information system (IIS) for the State of Maine.
- The IIS is updated in real time which allows for more accurate data as well as a larger sample size.
- Trend: Based on the cohort of children chosen for the NIS sampling, NIS has over estimated Maine immunization rates in almost every antigen and overall vaccine series. ImmPact will continue to be utilized by the Maine Immunization Program to highlight areas of need and focus programmatic efforts.



4+ DTaP ~ ≥4 doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. ImmPact

3+ Polio ~ ≥3 doses of any poliovirus (Polio) vaccine.

1+MMR ~ ≥1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

3+Hib ~ ≥3 doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine.

3+ HepB ~ ≥3 doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine.

1+Varicella ~ ≥ 1 dose of varicella (VAR) vaccine.

4+PCV ~ ≥ 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).

4:3:1:3:3:1:4 ~ A series comprised of all of the above individual antigens

Note: Hib, HepB and PCV vaccines are not part of the vaccine requirements for school children in Maine

Exhibit C--VaxFactsSM

The VaxFactsSM provides an overview of MVB activities for the past fiscal year along with high level financial summaries and links to MVB's website locations for more detailed financial data. A full-sized version of the VaxFactsSM report is available for viewing or download on MVB's home page at www.MEvaccine.org.