

SCHOOL-LOCATED VACCINATION

Clinics in the Context of COVID-19




A tips sheet for immunization programs (IP)

For decades, school-located vaccination clinics (SLVs) have successfully offered influenza and routine childhood immunizations and have contributed to lowering the morbidity and mortality of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). These SLVs laid the foundation for state and local health departments and school districts to quickly implement SLVs in response to COVID-19. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) undertook a project to explore the landscape of SLVs held in the U.S. between August 2019 and late summer 2021. Findings featured in the [environmental scan and virtual roundtables](#) reports offer insights on various SLV models and how to strengthen and sustain SLVs to promote public health and reduce VPD transmission.

The lessons learned from these reports have been developed into a tip sheet for immunization programs* interested in planning and implementing SLVs.

SET THE STAGE

- Define your goals based on what you hope to accomplish. Consider: equitable vaccine access, populations you hope to vaccinate (staff, students and which ages, parents, the whole community), and vaccines you'd like to offer (COVID-19, influenza, and/or routine vaccinations)
- Determine your capacity and approach

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (IP)-LED	LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION-LED	PROVIDER-LED
 <p>IP coordinates SLV directly Example: Hawaii</p>	 <p>IP supports local health jurisdictions in coordinating SLV Example: Maryland</p>	 <p>IP supports healthcare or pharmacy providers in coordinating SLV directly with local schools Example: Mississippi</p>

*This checklist is intended for the 64 state, territorial and local immunization programs who are National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) awardees.

How to Utilize Partners to Support SLV

Partners can: supply the vaccine, provide platforms for patient registration and consent, bill administrative fees to insurance, provide staff, and even coordinate the entire clinic.

BUILD CAPACITY

- Identify and recruit partners and champions early
 - ✦ Reach out to local or regional school nurses to coordinate events at school-based facilities, promote SLVs, and engage with the community to encourage participation. Find your state school nurse representative through [NASN](#) or its [affiliates](#).
 - ✦ Consider engaging other partners that are trusted members of the community: medical and hospital systems, universities, community-based organizations, immunization coalitions, local health departments, and fire departments.
 - ✦ Explore expanding relationships built with pharmacies during COVID-19 to help implement SLV for COVID-19, influenza, and other routine vaccinations.

- Use momentum and funding for COVID-19 to build, expand, and sustain infrastructure to support SLVs and school nurses
 - ✦ Help schools and partners identify funding for SLV available in your jurisdiction. Consider whether you can leverage your COVID-19 funds to support SLVs.
 - ✦ Connect partners to federal funding opportunities, such as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), available for schools and public health departments.
 - ✦ Explore sustainable infrastructure changes that can be used for long-term investment in school-based vaccination programs broadly (i.e., mobile nurses stations, school based-health centers).

SUPPORT PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

- Help partners choose a model that best serves your community
 - ✦ Choose a model that considers the resources partners bring to the project and existing coverage rates within the community.

- Break down barriers
 - ✦ Use public health expertise and resources to help schools and partners with parts of the process they may not be as comfortable with, such as vaccine supply and storage, learning about regulations and [liability](#), understanding insurance billing, creating a communications campaign, and preparing for evaluation.
 - ✦ Solve problems by leveraging AIM and fellow IPs that have experience supporting SLV. Submit your questions to the [AIM Peer Sharing and Information Request portal](#) or ask AIM staff at info@immunizationmanagers.org.

“IPs have an important role to play in ensuring chosen [SLV] approaches center equity goals, are sustainable, and build trust within the community.”

Claire Hannan, *AIM Executive Director*

BUILD OFF EXISTING RESOURCES

- Help partners leverage tools and resources to continue building SLV capacity
 - ✦ Share [NASN's checklist](#) with school nurses for the steps needed to plan and implement an SLV.
 - ✦ Review AIM and NASN's [environmental scan and roundtable summary reports](#) for existing resources from [CDC](#), [Shoo the Flu](#), and other professional organizations.