

Memorandum

To: Interested Parties

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Date: June 12, 2020

Subject: Immunization Rates During COVID - Update

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Childhood Immunizations

As an initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most Oregon providers stopped offering or deferred routine care visits such as for recommended immunizations. As an exception, many providers prioritized well-baby care for infants and continued to administer the recommended immunizations on time to this critical population. Throughout the pandemic, the Oregon Immunization Program (OIP) has tracked changes in routine immunization rates by analyzing shots that are reported to the ALERT Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS). To track pandemic effects on immunizations, OIP has chosen these six childhood-recommended immunizations at milestone ages as indicators:

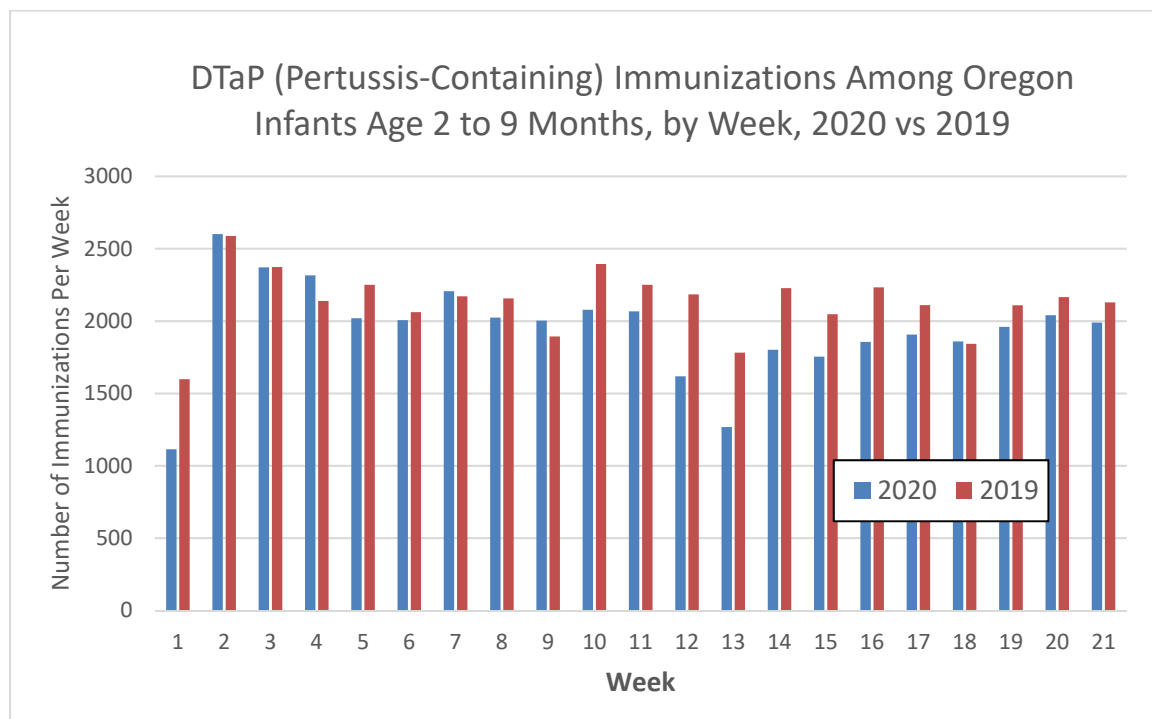
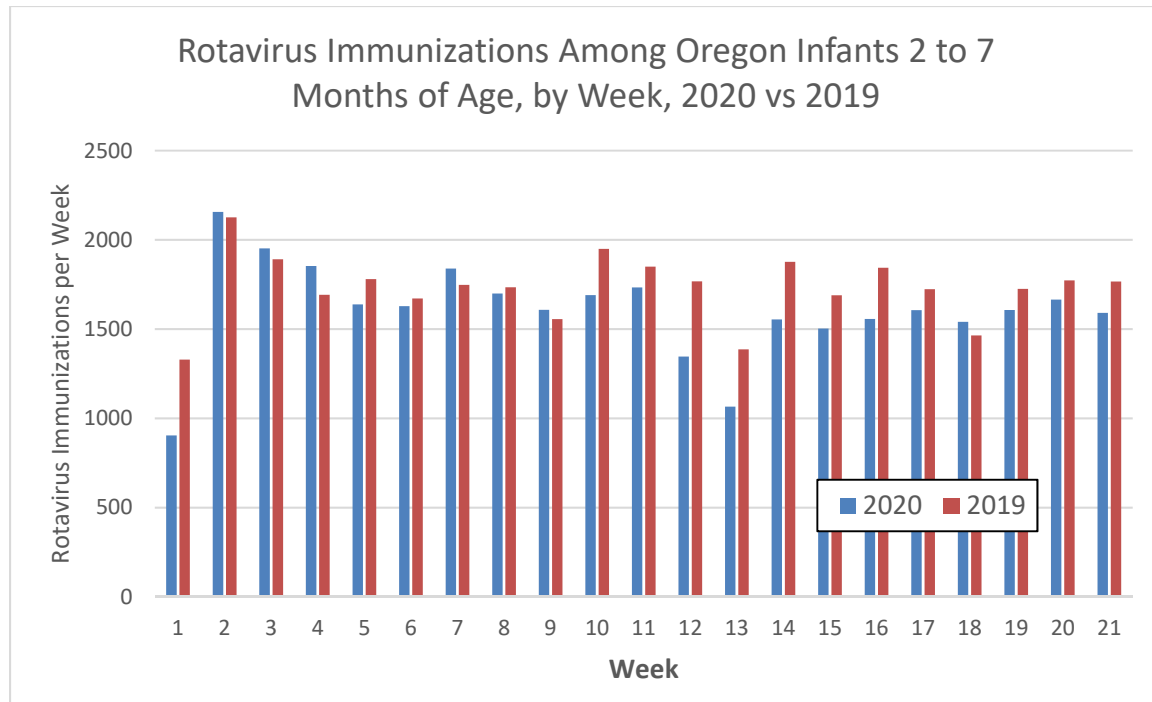
- (1) DTaP (pertussis containing) between 2 to 9 months of age,
- (2) Rotavirus by 7 months of age,
- (3) First MMR (measles containing) at one year of age,
- (4) MMR at 2 to 9 years of age (typically 2nd dose; school/daycare required),
- (5) Tdap (pertussis containing, school required) at age 9-13,
- (6) HPV at age 9-13) plus
- (7) Tdap immunizations among women of child-bearing age, as this immunization during pregnancy will provide protective antibodies to new-born infants.

OIP is tracking changes in immunization rates by comparing the total of immunizations given per week in the current year to the total given per week in the prior year. Apart from seasonal patterns, immunization totals in Oregon are normally stable across adjacent years. Weeks here are defined as epiweeks, which start each year on the same day of the week.

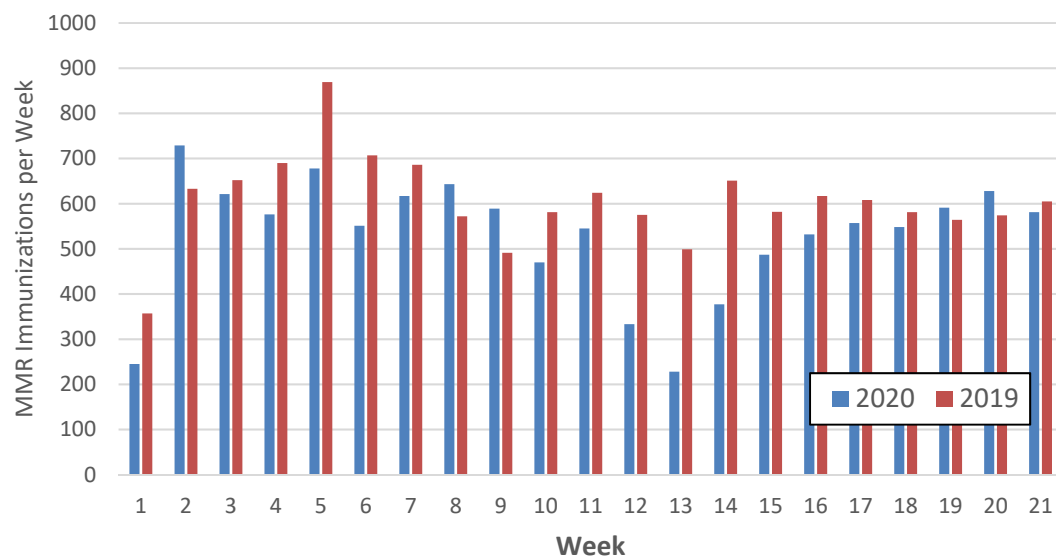
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, immunization delivery fell off dramatically in Oregon, though more moderately for infant immunizations. For immunizations given through May 23rd, ALERT IIS data confirm that infant immunizations have largely returned to their expected levels. For older children, 2nd dose MMR immunizations continue to run below 2019 levels but are increasing week by week. Tween/teen Tdap immunizations, which virtually

stopped following the pandemic declaration, are also recovering but with a slower week to week trend. HPV immunization levels at age 9 to 13, which are primarily the first HPV immunization, are following the same pattern of slow recovery as tween/teen Tdap. Further tracking over time is needed for older-child and teen immunizations.

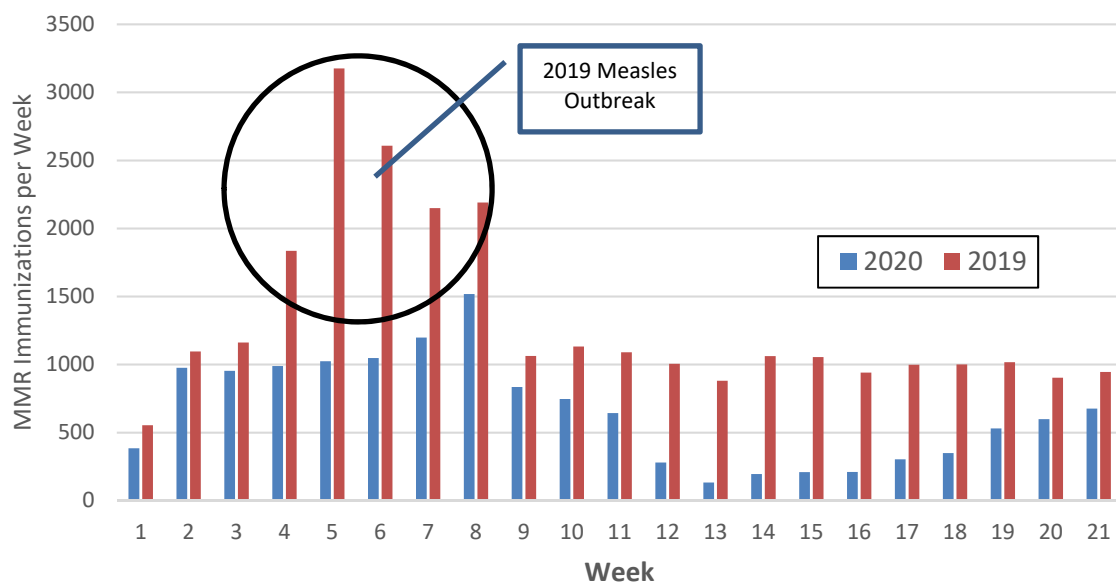
Graphical comparisons between 2019 and 2020 are given below for all of the immunizations other than Tdap for women of child-bearing years.



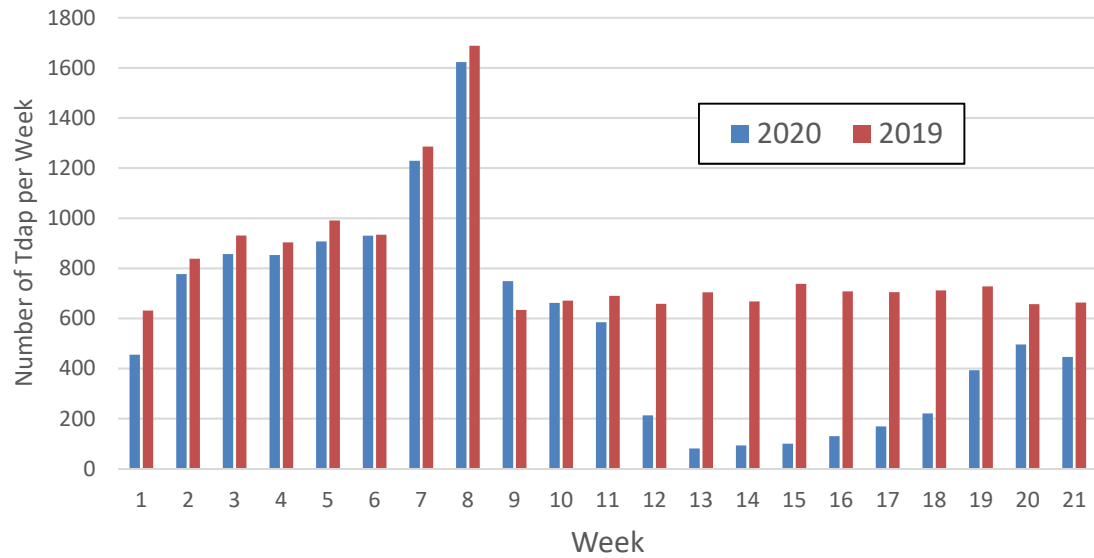
1st Measles Immunizations (MMR) for Oregon Infants at One Year of Age, by Week, 2019 vs 2020



Measles Immunizations (MMR) for Oregon Children Age 2-9 Years by Week, 2019 vs 2020



Tdap Immunizations for Oregon Children Age 9-13,
by Week, 2020 vs 2019



Oregon HPV Immunizations at Age 9-13 Years,
by Week, 2019 vs 2020

