

Trust in Every Dose: Rebuilding Confidence, Strengthening Communities

CONFERENCE AGENDA: APRIL 20-21, 2026

For detailed information and registration visit [Immunization Conference 2026](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/conference.html)

Day 1: Monday, April 20, 2026

Time	Session information
7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	Pre-conference workshop registration and check-in
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (pre-conference workshop attendees only)
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Pre-conference Workshop: Building Vaccine Confidence Through Empathy <i>Karen Ernst, MA, Voices for Vaccine</i>
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	Conference registration, check-in, and exhibits
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Conference welcome
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Plenary: From Trusted Messenger to Essential Messenger: Cutting through Vaccine Chaos <i>Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center</i>
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.	Break, exhibits, and networking
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Plenary: Trust, Transparency, and Vaccines: A Candid Conversation <i>Moderator: Ruth Lynfield, MD, Minnesota Department of Health</i> <i>Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy</i>
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	Break and exhibits
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Breakout session 1 (five options) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine Hesitancy Among Black Minnesotans: Historical Causes, Contemporary Challenges, and Potential Solutions <i>Inari Mohammed, PhD, MPH, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, University of Minnesota School of Public Health</i> Analytics in Action: Tools Advancing Measles Response <i>Margo Wheatley, MS, PhD, and Alise Mendoza MS Biostatistics Student, University of Minnesota; Ben Christianson, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health</i> The Art and Science of Vaccine Conversations <i>Carly Edson, MPH and Tabitha Hanson, DNP, MPH, RN, NBCSN, Minnesota Department of Health</i> Pediatric Vaccine Conversations: Addressing Common Concerns <i>Moderator: Kathleen Thielen, MAN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health</i> <i>Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP, Medical Director, Center for Immunization Research and Education, North Dakota State University</i> Local Public Health Spotlight <i>Moderator: Jessica Metzger, MSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health</i> <i>Holly Blilie, BSN, RN, PHN, Polk County Public Health, Alisa Beckman, MSN, RN, PHN, Otter Tail County Public Health, and Paul Van Gorp, MD, CentraCare Health System Long Prairie & Todd County Public Health</i>

Day 2: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Time	Session information
7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Registration and check-in, breakfast, and exhibits
8:15 – 8:45 a.m.	MDH Immunization Program Update <i>Margaret Roddy, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health</i>
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.	Plenary: Not Your Normal Clinic Visit: Building Vaccine Confidence and Access in Priority Communities <i>Moderator: Annie Fedorowicz, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health</i>

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	<i>Panel: Sheyanga Beecher, MSN, MPH, CNP-Pediatrics, Hennepin Healthcare, Munira MaalimIsaq, FNP, DNP-c, Inspire Change Clinic, Chris Lee, Upper Sioux Community</i>
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Break and exhibits
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<p>Breakout session 2 (five options)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Art and Science of Vaccine Conversations <i>Carly Edson, MPH and Tabitha Hanson, DNP, MPH, RN, NBCSN, Minnesota Department of Health</i> 2. MIIC Check, 1-2-3: Data Quality, Immunization Coverage, and Outreach Strategies <i>Naomi Jiter, MPH and Taylor Campbell, Minnesota Department of Health</i> 3. School Immunization: Insights, Innovations, and Impact <i>Moderator: Hanna Ljungman, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health Carissa Carlson, RN, Lake Park Audubon School District, Candi Schafer, RN, PHN, Faribault & Martin Counties Health and Human Services</i> 4. Beyond the Needle: Immunization Tips, Tools, and Resources <i>Moderator: Lisa Parker, BSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health Sarah Spah, MSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health</i> 5. Local Public Health Spotlight <i>Moderator: Jessica Metzger, MSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health Jessica Elofson, RN, PHN, MPH, Nicollet County Health and Human Services, Cynthia Hiltz, MS, RN, PHN, LSN, NCSN, FNASN, Anoka County, and Kirsten Ramirez, MPH, BSN, PHN, Washington County Public Health & Environment</i>
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Break, refreshments, and exhibits
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>Breakout session 3 (five options)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Yes...and. Thinking on your feet, and how improv skills can be helpful during difficult conversations <i>Cast members from Danger Boat Productions (session maximum is 60 participants)</i> 7. MIIC Check, 1-2-3: Data Quality, Immunization Coverage, and Outreach Strategies <i>Naomi Jiter, MPH and Taylor Campbell, Minnesota Department of Health</i> 8. No Thanks Doc. Tools to Improve Difficult Vaccine Conversations in the Medical Encounter <i>Moderator: Jessica Metzger, MSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health Panel: Maeve Williams, Vaccine Education Project Manager, Center for Immunization Research and Education, Department of Public Health, Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP, Center for Immunization Research and Education, North Dakota State University, Shar Valentine MD, FAAP, Essentia Health, Robert M. Jacobson, MD, FAAP, Mayo Clinic</i> 9. VPDs Outbreak Response: Clinic to Community <i>Moderator: Kelsey Seiler, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health Panel: Gail Gustavson, MPH, Maria Pacheco, MPH, DrPH and Meghan Sickel, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health, Regina Gavin, MPH, Dakota County Public Health, Krista Hagen, MD, Southdale Pediatrics</i> 10. Beyond the Needle: Immunization Tips, Tools, and Resources <i>Moderator: Lisa Parker, BSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health Kathleen Thielen, MAN, RN, PHN and Sarah Spah, MSN, RN, PHN, Minnesota Department of Health</i>
12:30– 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Plenary: The Importance of Vaccines in Pregnancy: Safety and Effectiveness <i>Malini B. DeSilva, MD, MPH, HealthPartners Institute</i>
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Break and exhibits
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Plenary: Strengthening Trust and Confidence in Immunization: Answering Questions from Clinical Colleagues <i>Robert M. Jacobson, MD, FAAP, Mayo Clinic</i>

Minnesota Department of Health

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