

November 16, 2020

**TO: All Licensed Alaska Health Maintenance Organizations, Third Party Administrators (“TPAs”), Registered Administrative Services Providers with Respect to Health Insurance, Insurance Companies, and Health Service Corporations (together “Assessable Entities”)**

**RE: 2021 Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP) Child and Adult Monthly Assessment Rates**

At its annual rate-setting meeting on September 17, 2020, the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program's Advisory Council voted to recommend next year's child and adult per person monthly assessment rates to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). After careful review of fiscal control points, and the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19's varied impacts, the Council unanimously recommended for 2021 a child immunization rate of \$8.35 per child per month and an adult rate of \$1.30 per adult per month.

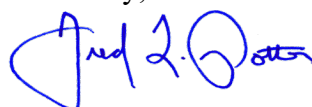
For planning purposes, AVAP's Advisory Council wanted you to know that, absent the release of funds from reserves, this year's assessments would have been \$8.74 monthly per child and \$1.59 monthly per adult. For 2022 planning purposes, it would be prudent for assessment payers to plan for rates closer to those levels.

AVAP commends the diligence of DHSS during these difficult times in both dampening for Alaska the decline in immunizations experienced in other states and maintaining program efficiencies. To help mitigate the impact of this year's increases, the council released a portion of its cash reserves to hold down upcoming rates just as it had done for 2019 and 2020. Kindly recall that, in those years, AVAP's rates *declined* notwithstanding the facts that (a) vaccine costs from manufacturers increased each year and (b) AVAP significantly expanded vaccine coverages for adults. AVAP's 2021 assessment rates are in the ranges we predicted in last year's advisory. They move AVAP's rates closer to the current costs of vaccines but remain significantly below private purchase costs. Thus, AVAP continues to yield cost savings for Alaskans.

We are pleased to advise that the DHSS accepted the Council's recommended 2021 rates. **Accordingly, the monthly \$8.35 per child and \$1.30 per adult assessment rates will first become effective with payments due on February 15, 2021.** The current rates will remain in effect through the November 15, 2020 assessment payment due date. KidsVax<sup>®</sup>'s assessment system will automatically apply the correct rate for all timely filed payer assessment reports.

Thank you for your continued support of Alaska's universal vaccine purchase program.

Sincerely,



Fred L. Potter, managing member of KidsVax, LLC  
*serving via contract with DHSS as the*  
Executive Director of AVAP