



# Immunization Newsletter

## September 2024

### Survey Finds Drop in How the U.S. Values Childhood Vaccinations

According to a new Gallup poll from July 2024, fewer Americans today consider childhood vaccines important, with 40% saying it is extremely important for parents to have their children vaccinated, down from 58% in 2019 and 64% in 2001. Differences have been identified based on political party alignment, with 52% of Republicans and Republican leaners saying it is either extremely or very important for parents to get their children vaccinated compared to 93% of Democrats and Democratic leaners. The poll also included the following findings:

Only 51% believe the government should be involved in requiring vaccines. This is down from 62% in 2019.

63% of Americans have heard about the possible disadvantages of vaccines. This is down from 79% in 2019.

20% of U.S. adults believe vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases they prevent. This is up from 11% in 2019.

These changes accentuate the importance of discussing vaccination with patients and families, maintaining a pro-vaccine environment in the office, and giving strong, presumptive vaccine recommendations. Visit ICAAP’s [immunizations webpage](#) to download resources both for clinical professionals and families.

# LET'S GET VACCINATED

## VFC Vaccine Coverage

The [CDC analyzed](#) 10 years worth of data from the National Immunization Survey - Child starting from 2012. From a sample size of 152,915 children, approximately 52.2% were VFC-eligible. Among VFC-eligible children born during 2011-2020, coverage by age 24 months was stable for  $\geq 1$  MMR dose (88.0%–89.9%) and the combined 7-vaccine series (61.4%–65.3%). Rotavirus vaccination coverage by age 8 months was 64.8%–71.1%, increasing by an average of 0.7 percentage points annually. Among all children born in 2020, coverage was 3.8 ( $\geq 1$  MMR dose), 11.5 (2–3 doses of rotavirus vaccine), and 13.8 (combined 7-vaccine series) percentage points **lower** among VFC-eligible than among non VFC-eligible children. Although the VFC program has played a vital role in increasing and maintaining high levels of childhood vaccination coverage for 30 years, gaps remain between those who are and are not VFC-eligible. Enhanced efforts must ensure that parents and guardians of VFC-eligible children are aware of, have confidence in, and are able to obtain all recommended vaccines for their children.

## HPV Coverage

HPV vaccine coverage has stalled after steadily rising since 2022. In 2023, about 77% of adolescents had received at least 1 dose of the HPV vaccine and only about 66% were up-to-date with the vaccine. This data from the [2023 National Immunization Survey - Teen](#) concluded that routine immunization rates, with the exception of HPV, remained stable compared to 2022. Regardless of this stagnation, HPV vaccine coverage is already lower compared to other routine vaccines. These differences may be due in part to a national lack of HPV vaccine requirements for school entry, stigma, vaccine hesitancy, and accessibility. HPV vaccination is cancer prevention and can be given starting at [age 9](#).

## FDA Changes Bexsero Schedule

On August 19, 2024, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new dosing schedule for Bexsero. It is now approved as a 2-dose schedule, with each dose administered 6 months apart. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is anticipated to consider the new schedule at its October 2024 meeting. In the interim, healthcare providers should refer to the [updated package insert](#) for dosing and schedule intervals.



# Respiratory Virus Updates

## 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccines

The 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines are approved and available! The CDC and AAP recommend everyone ages 6 months and older receive an updated vaccine. Most people will only require one dose, but some could require as many as 3 depending on product, age, vaccination history, and immunocompromised status. Visit our [Respiratory Virus webpage](#) to access detailed COVID-19 dosing charts.

Vaccines can be ordered now through IDPH and CDPH's VFC program, wholesalers, and directly through manufacturers. Learn more about the recommendations and dosing guidance from the recently published MMWR and through the CDC's [clinical considerations](#) page.

Pfizer (mRNA, targeting KP.2 strain, 6 months+)

6 months - 4 years presentation: 3 dose vials that require dilution

5 - 11 years presentation: Single-dose vial

12 years and older presentation: Single-dose glass pre-filled syringe

Moderna (mRNA, targeting KP.2 strain, 6 months+)

All presentations: Single dose, pre-filled syringe

Novavax (protein-based, targeting JN.1 strain, 12 years+)

Presentation: Single dose, pre-filled syringe

Please note: The Bridge Access Program has ended. If you are interested in obtaining 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines for your uninsured adult population, please connect with CDPH at [COVID19vaccine@cityofchicago.org](mailto:COVID19vaccine@cityofchicago.org) or with IDPH at [dph.vaccines@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.vaccines@illinois.gov).



# Respiratory Virus Updates

## 2024-2025 Flu Vaccines

This season's recommendations are detailed in this [AAP report](#) and the [CDC's MMWR](#). Flu vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older without medical contraindications. Flu vaccines are trivalent with the removal of the B Yamagata component. The recommendations for this year for those with solid organ transplants between the ages of 18 years and 64 years include that they may receive either high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV3) or adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV3).

Administration is ideally as soon as possible in the season, without preference for one product or formulation over another. The [number of doses](#) depends on the child's age at first dose administration and influenza vaccination history. Children 6 months through 8 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time, who received only 1 dose before July 1, 2024, or whose vaccination status is unknown, should receive 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart. All other children should receive 1 dose this season. Co-administration with other vaccines is recommended. [Side effects](#) of the vaccine may include fever, redness, soreness, or swelling at the injection site.

During the 2023-2024 season, we saw a decrease in flu vaccination. There is a need to increase vaccination efforts for children under five years of age and those in high-risk groups. [Coverage](#) last season was lowest for Black children at 49% compared to 51% of white children, 60% of Hispanic children and 59% of children identified as other race/ethnicity. Children living in rural areas also had significantly lower vaccination rates than those in urban or suburban areas. Last season there were [199](#) pediatric flu deaths, which is tied with 2019-2020 for record high deaths in a non-pandemic flu season. Please continue to give a [strong and presumptive recommendation](#).

**Tips for Talking to Patients and Families About Flu Vaccines**

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Talking to patients and families about the importance of getting a flu vaccine can make a difference. The statements below help to re-frame being vaccinated from an individual responsibility to collective responsibility. These are evidence-based re-framing statements adapted from a report generated by the Frameworks Institute and the AAP.

**Talk about the benefits of flu vaccination for the common good.**

"It benefits all of us if every child in our community is vaccinated against the flu, because it means that all of us are more likely to be healthy."

**Focus on how flu vaccines benefit children's and adolescents' long-term health and wellbeing.**

"Vaccination throughout childhood and adolescence is essential because it allows children's immune systems to recognize and resist diseases. This will help them develop and live healthy lives into adulthood."

**You can also use a literacy metaphor to explain how the immune system learns how to respond to flu viruses through vaccination.**

"It's similar to the process we use to learn to read or write. We have to start with letters or text, then our bodies can recognize or learn words and sentences. Flu vaccines are the text and words for our body to learn and recognize (and respond to) flu viruses."

**You can use computer updates as another metaphor to explain how the immune system improves its performance through flu vaccination.**

"Computers or apps need updates to operate smoothly and be protected from threats. Flu vaccines help the body's immune system operate efficiently and improve its performance each flu season."

**Make the Flu Vaccine Accessible for All**

Think about how your clinic can improve access to flu vaccines for your patients and families. Barriers like lack of transportation or paid time off work exist.

- Can you vaccinate a whole family while they are there for a pediatric well-visit?
- Can you have a clinic on nights or weekends?

## ICAAP Flu Outreach and Clinical Materials

**Is it just another shot?**

The flu vaccine:

- ✓ helps strengthen their immune system
- ✓ limits symptoms if spread
- ✓ prevents long-term health issues

Talk to your pediatrician about the flu vaccine today!

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**There are better ways for your kids to spend their time.**

Get your child their flu vaccine this season!

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### Preventing Respiratory Viruses and Increase of Human Parvovirus B19 in US

In August, the CDC released a [health advisory](#) notifying about an increase in human parvovirus B19 activity in the US. Parvovirus B19 is a highly transmissible seasonal respiratory virus that spreads through the respiratory droplets of infected people. Symptoms may include fever, myalgia, malaise, and a facial rash in children and most people will recover completely at home. There is no recommended vaccine or treatment for this virus, but communities and healthcare providers can refer to CDC's webpage on [Preventing Respiratory Viruses](#) to help avoid illness. Common strategies that can also be used to prevent COVID, RSV, and flu include practicing good hygiene, taking steps for cleaner air, or masking.

### Mpox Public Health Emergency of International Concern



The current outbreak of monkeypox (MPXV) is more widespread than any previous outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has resulted in Clade I MPXV transmission to some neighboring countries. Currently, there are no confirmed cases within the United States. However, clinicians should be aware of the possibility of Clade I MPXV in travelers who have been in DRC or any country sharing a border with DRC, including the Republic of the Congo (ROC), Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zambia, and S. Sudan. Clinicians should notify IDPH or CDPH if they have a patient with MPXV-like symptoms. For the lab testing process, click [here](#) to view the full details. The latest Health and Human Services Mpox Briefing for Providers can be viewed [here](#).

### IDPH: New Process for Temporary Off-Site Vaccination Clinics

This new protocol is broken up into three steps: 1) Annual Plan Submission, 2) Notification of Temporary Off-Site Clinics, 3) Post Clinic Follow-Up. These steps outline a more detailed plan that must be submitted and approved before off-site clinic events can be held. IDPH must be notified at least 48 hours prior to each clinic event with all clinic details. After the event, a follow-up email will be sent out which must be completed within 48 hours. An [Off-Site Clinic Dashboard](#) has been developed to help providers navigate the off-site vaccination clinic process and requirements. This dashboard will have instructions, resources, and other helpful tips and guidance.

# Upcoming Events and More



or register at  
[illinoisaap.org/events](https://illinoisaap.org/events)

- ICAAP Vaccine Advocacy and Policy Webinar: September 18, 12pm.
- Hosted by the Illinois HPV Advisory Council and the American Cancer Society: 2024 Illinois HPV Summit - September 20 in Springfield. Learn more and [register here](#).
- ICAAP Meningitis Webinar: October 16, 12pm.
- ICAAP Annual Education Conference: November 14 and 15, 2024.

## Quick Updates and Reminders

- ✓ [iREACH Vaccine eLearning Modules](#) to increase knowledge and support community conversations about the flu, COVID-19, and basic information about vaccines and vaccine safety.
- ✓ Association of Immunization Managers Toolkit: [Promising Practices to Improve Pediatric COVID-19 Immunization Rates Toolkit](#)
- ✓ New Webinar Series: Respiratory Virus Season 2024/2025. [This new two-part webinar series](#) on Red Book Online (RBO) provides essential information on immunization recommendations and updates to prepare for respiratory virus season.
- ✓ Webinar: Prepare Your Clinics and Patients for Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season held on August 27, 2024. You can now [watch the webinar](#) on the AAP Immunizations website.
- ✓ You Call the Shots [Zoster module](#) updated.
- ✓ Vaccine deliveries from IDPH will not be available October 14.



# Funding Available

To address barriers to childhood immunizations in your county\*

## Funds can be used for:

- Vaccine storage and equipment.
- Translation services
- Staff travel to vaccination clinics or events.
- Creation and distribution of vaccine education materials
- Vaccine education events for the community.
- Staff for vaccination clinics or other project efforts.
- Public transportation or ride share vouchers or credits.



\*Applicants must be located in Bureau, Carroll, Cook County (southern region), DeKalb, Grundy, Iroquois, Knox, Lake, Livingston, Macon, McDonough, McHenry, Rock Island, Stephenson, Vermilion, Will, or Winnebago counties.