



Immunization Newsletter

March 2025

Measles

Measles is spreading in the United States. There are currently over 280 so far in 2025, with more regularly being reported. The bulk of cases have come from an [outbreak in Texas and New Mexico](#). Two people [have died](#), marking the first measles deaths in the United States in 10 years. It is reported that 94% of the cases, including the deaths, are among people who are unvaccinated or an unknown vaccination status. The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library is tracking measles cases directly from Health Departments [here](#).

The CDC issued a [health alert](#) calling for extra precautions during the upcoming travel season. Misinformation around ways to prevent and treat measles is spreading. In a March 7th [Op-Ed, AAP President Dr. Susan Kressly](#) said, “Recently, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. promoted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendations on vitamin A to treat the measles infection. But there is a big difference between treating an illness and preventing it. Unfortunately, online conversations among parents began to shift to discuss cod-liver oil, vitamin A and other nutritional strategies as a primary method to prevent the disease.” and “Parents who are making decisions about their children’s health deserve honest answers about what we know, what we don’t know and what is false.”

Given what we know about the spread and impact of measles, it is important to be prepared and ensure your patients are up to date with their vaccines. We have added our [Emerging Issues](#) webpage to the menu at the top of our website. We are working to ensure clinical resources and patient-facing materials on measles are in one place and easily accessible to you, your staff, and the families you serve. Please bookmark this page and know that it will be kept up to date to help you prepare should a case of measles be identified in our state.

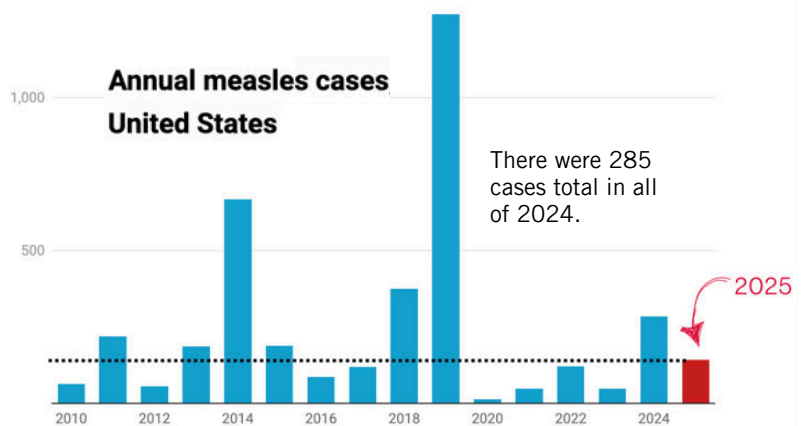


Chart: YLE/Katelyn Jetelina • Source: CDC (as of Feb 21, 2025) + More up to date count from Texas • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: [YLE](#)

FDA Approves Meningococcal Combination Vaccine For People Aged 10 Through 25 Years

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved [PENMENVY](#) (Meningococcal Groups A, B, C, W, and Y Vaccine) for use in individuals aged 10 through 25 years old. The vaccine targets five major serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis* (A, B, C, W, and Y) which commonly lead to invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). Vaccination for MenB has historically been low, with less than 13% of adolescents receiving the recommended two-dose vaccination series; around 32% receive at least one dose.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

The CDC confirmed at least 12 pertussis deaths and a [six-fold increase](#) in cases in 2024, the largest surge since 2017. While infections usually climb every 3-5 years, pertussis was among many germs that were disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pertussis is preventable with a 5 dose vaccine series (DTaP) starting at 2 months.

New IDPH SIREN Platform Instructions and Guidance

SIREN alerts from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have migrated to a new platform as of March 4, 2025. The new platform provider is called "Juvare". Please ensure emails from them are not being blocked by following these [instructions](#). During the migration, each user should have received a "Welcome to Juvare" email with log in instructions to be completed within 7 days of receiving the email. You can find the migrations instructions [here](#), as well as information about the [SIREN login and profile updates](#). If you experience any issues, please reach out to dph.siren.gov. Once activated, existing users can log in at <https://www.siren.illinois.gov/>.

Please note that you will not receive any notifications from IDPH until you have activated your account. Users should have also been notified by text from 1-888-613-3901. Please make sure to save the new SIREN number, 1-877-649-8901. Reply "yes" to receive notifications by text. New users can sign up on <https://www.siren.illinois.gov/>.



Access to Vaccine Information

Access to Information During a Changing Vaccine Landscape

Many changes are happening at a federal level that can impact our ability to effectively gain information and data, and educate and build trust in vaccines. These changes include the postponement of the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) meeting](#) originally scheduled for February 26-28, the cancellation of the [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee \(VRBPAC\) meeting](#) scheduled for March 13, and the removal of the CDC's [Wild to Mild flu campaign](#) in the midst of one of the worst flu seasons in recent years.

We want to make sure you continue to have access to information and resources that will help you stay up-to-date and communicate with patients about the importance of vaccines.

Please know that we are doing our best to gather information, check website links, and keep information current for our members as things change. To the right, you will find some links we have gathered this month. If there are any you'd like to add or see listed on our website, please let us know.

The ICAAP Immunization team is excited to share ICAAP's new [School Immunizations Toolkit](#) with you. This toolkit is designed to support school and child care center leaders in promoting vaccine confidence and maximizing vaccine compliance. It was created in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Association of School Nurses, and Chicago Public Schools. It has been sent to Superintendents and other school leaders in Illinois, and promoted through the partners we worked with to create it. [View the Toolkit](#)

Resources

IDPH: [Dear Colleague Letter](#)

[Comprehensive Vaccine Education Program](#)

ICAAP: [Immunizations Webpage](#)

Your Local Epidemiologist: [Navigating Vaccine Conversations Webinar](#)

Your Local Epidemiologist: [Newsletter Subscription](#) (free and paid options)

[healthychildren.org](#)

Immunize.org: [PDFs of current ACIP recommendations](#)

JAMA: [Reflections on the Successes of Pediatric Vaccines](#)

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [Vaccine Webinar Series](#)

Immunize.org: [Image gallery](#) for recognizing vaccine preventable diseases

Immunize Colorado: [Immunization in Rough Water: Challenges and Potential Solutions](#)

Respiratory Virus Season

FLU After an especially severe flu season, data is finally showing that the '24-'25 season [may be](#) past its peak. Hospital visits, outpatient visits, and positive flu tests are decreasing. [114 total pediatric flu deaths](#) have been reported nationally so far this season. In [Illinois](#), test positivity rates are decreasing across the board, with flu at 17.9%, COVID at 5.3%, and RSV at 3.7% as of March 1.

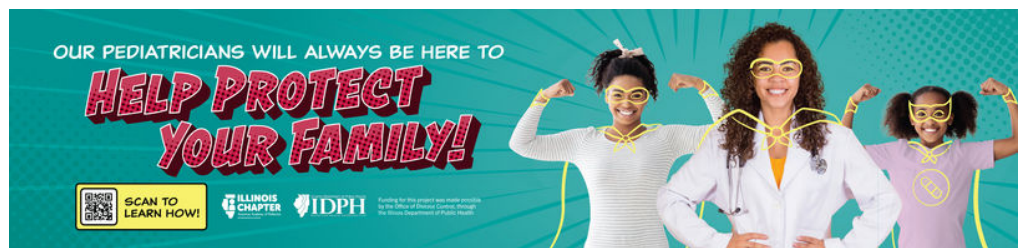
The CDC has [reported](#) on interim flu vaccine effectiveness (VE) for children, adolescents, and adults. Among children and adolescents, VE was 32%, 59%, and 60% in outpatient settings (three networks) and 63% and 78% against influenza-associated hospitalization

On March 13, the FDA announced plans for selecting influenza virus strains for vaccine composition for the 2025-2026 U.S. influenza season. The FDA does not anticipate any impact on vaccine supply or timing of availability. Read the full news release [here](#).

RSV RSV season is also past its peak. As of January 31, administration of RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) for pregnant people should be paused until the next RSV season. Continue to administer nirsevimab to eligible infants through March 31, 2025. A recent [report](#) from the JAMA Network showed good uptake of the RSVpreF vaccine and infant nirsevimab. Nirsevimab uptake was high even among individuals who did not receive routine prenatal or infant vaccines. This study analyzed individuals who received prenatal care and delivered babies at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), from October 15, 2023, through April 15, 2024. A total of 40.4% of birth parents who declined RSVpreF and standard prenatal vaccines (Tdap and influenza) during pregnancy accepted nirsevimab for their infants. Furthermore, 34.0% of eligible infants who did not receive the hepatitis B vaccine received nirsevimab. This high uptake is attributed to accessible vaccine administration, proactive outreach to all eligible pregnant individuals, extensive pre-approval marketing, heightened RSV awareness following the 2022 season, and a perceived favorable vaccine profile.

COVID-19 A new [study](#) published in *Vaccine* estimates COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths averted due to vaccination. They estimated that the 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccination prevented thousands of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and in-hospital deaths from the week of October 1, 2023, through the week of April 21, 2024. These results emphasize the importance of vaccination and the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine, especially for those over the age of 65. Eligible people should continue to get vaccinated as soon as they are able.

NEW Look for this ad on a train near you!



Additional Resources

Quick Reminders and Updates

- ✿ Immunize.org created a [database](#) of PDFs of current ACIP recommendations as published in the MMWR
- ✿ CDC: Updated [Vaccine Information Statements \(VIS\)](#) have been published
- ✿ AMA [updates](#) on bird flu and other issues
- ✿ Fast Five Quiz: [Are You Prepared to Confront the Measles Outbreak?](#)
- ✿ Diagnostic Influenza Testing Submission by [Electronic Test Ordering and Results \(ETOR\)](#)
- ✿ Understanding Perspectives on Maternal and Infant Immunizations: [A National Survey Report](#)

Upcoming Webinars

- March 18, 12PM: CDPH Clade 1 Mpox Vaccination and Prevention - Register [here](#).
- March 19, 12pm: The History of Vaccines, Lessons Learned, and a Look Back in Time (Celebrating Adolescent Immunization Week)
- April 3, 12PM: Way Beyond the ABCs: Facing Barriers to Prevent Sleep-Related Infant Death
- April 11, 12PM: Optimizing Access to Contraceptive and Reproductive Health for Latinx Communities

Register at
illinoisAAP.org/events
or scan the QR code



Upcoming In-Person Events

- Registration for the March 14, April 22, and May 7 CDPH VFC Trainings is still open! **Two staff from every VFC site in Chicago must attend**
- Six Vaccine Summits between June 4 and September 10, 2025 - for providers outside of Chicago

Find the full schedule and register today at illinoisAAP.org/vaccines-for-children