ILLINOIS CHAPTER
American Academy of Pediatrics
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Immunization Newsletter
July 2025

June ACIP Meeting

On June 25 and 26, the newly appointed Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met. Here are some of the key takeaways:

Votes

- On RSV - The ACIP voted to recommend Merck's monoclonal antibody **ENFLONSIA™ (clesrovimab-cfor)**. This will be added to the VFC schedule. More on **page 2**.
- On Flu – The ACIP voted to support a universal flu recommendation for everyone ages 6 months and older with no compromising conditions. They also voted to remove the availability of flu vaccines that contain thimerosal for children, adults, and pregnant persons. More on **page 2**.
- Votes on COVID-19, HPV, and meningococcal vaccine recommendations did not take place and were removed from a previously published agenda.

At the time of this newsletter, the June meeting votes have not been adopted by the CDC.

AAP did not participate in the most recent ACIP meeting. The AAP will continue to publish its own recommendations. The full statement can be found **here**, as well as an open "**Letter to Parents**" and **AAP Fact-Checked** website. ICAAP continues to work with stakeholders across the state to ensure access to immunizations and scientifically sound information for families.

April ACIP Meeting Recommendations Adopted

In the absence of a CDC Director, HHS Secretary RFK, Jr. **adopted the recommendations** made during the April 2025 ACIP meeting. This includes:

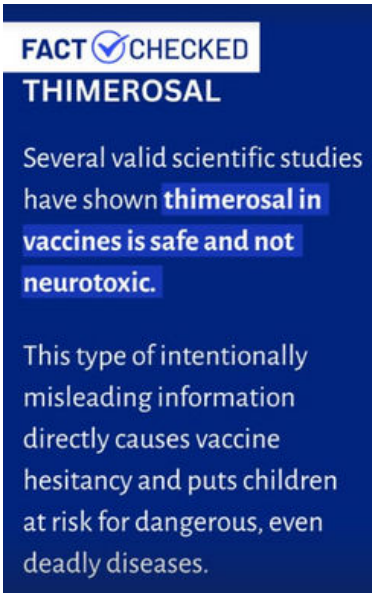
- Recommending GSK's MenABCWY vaccine to be used when both MenACWY and MenB are indicated at the same visit.
- Recommending adults 50–59 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease receive a single dose of RSV vaccine.
- New recommendations for Chikungunya vaccine were previously adopted.

Respiratory Virus Updates

Flu Vaccines 2025/2026

Thimerosal is an ethyl mercury-based preservative used in multi-dose vaccine vials to prevent germs, bacteria, and/or fungi from contaminating a vaccine. The ingredient was used in vaccines regularly until the late 1990s, when it was removed from vaccines despite no evidence that thimerosal causes any neurodevelopmental problems. Since then, multiple studies have been conducted that demonstrate that thimerosal does not pose any health risks.

Flu vaccines *without* thimerosal were approved for use for the 2025-2026 flu season. Here is the AAP's statement on this decision. VFC programs in the state do not order multi-dose flu vaccine vials, so the availability of flu vaccines for children receiving VFC vaccines will not be impacted.



New RSV Monoclonal Antibody and More

Merck's monoclonal antibody ENFLONSIA™ (clesrovimab-cfor) is approved for infants younger than 8 months of age who are born during or entering their first RSV season. Clesrovimab is administered using the same dose regardless of weight (105 mg/0.7 mL in a prefilled syringe) and only during an infant's first RSV season. Due to an ongoing technical review of data, AAP recommendations around clesrovimab are expected to be published in Red Book Online next month.

Infants are recommended to receive nirsevimab (Beyfortus™) or clesrovimab. One dose of either immunization is expected to protect infants for five months. Palivizumab is no longer routinely recommended for use. If there is a shortage of nirsevimab, additional guidance will be provided.

Pregnant people can get a single dose of Abrysvo during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy from September through January. According to the AAP, "The CDC does not recommend nirsevimab for most infants born to a mother who received maternal RSV vaccine during their most recent pregnancy, except for infants where less than 14 days have elapsed between vaccination and birth."

Measles & Vaccine Perspectives

Measles Update

According to data from the CDC, as of July 15, 2025, there have been 1,309 confirmed cases of measles reported in the U.S. by 39 jurisdictions. Cases in the U.S. have now surpassed the highest number of cases reported in a single year since 1992. There are 27 outbreaks reported so far in 2025, and 88% of confirmed cases are associated with an outbreak.

North Carolina and Oregon reported their first cases of measles this year. There have been no new cases reported in Illinois since May 22.

Information on the current measles situation and resources in over 20 languages are available from CDPH here. ICAAP also has measles resources in English and Spanish on their Emerging Issues page.

U.S. Cases in 2025

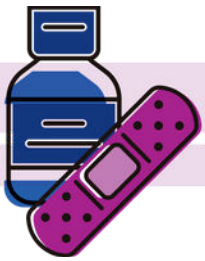
Total cases

1309

Age
Under 5 years: **375 (29%)**
5-19 years: **482 (37%)**
20+ years: **440 (34%)**
Age unknown: **12 (1%)**

Vaccination Status
Unvaccinated or Unknown: **92%**
One MMR dose: **4%**
Two MMR doses: **4%**

CDC Measles Cases and Outbreaks



4 in 5 Americans Support Childhood Vaccine Requirements

A recent poll conducted by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the de Beaumont Foundation found that almost 80% of adults are still in favor of childhood vaccine requirements. 90% of Democrats, 68% of Republicans, and 66% of MAGA supporters agreed with the statement "Parents should be required to have their children vaccinated against preventable diseases to attend school. Furthermore, 91% of respondents agreed that routine childhood vaccines are safe. The poll also looked into attitudes among parents specifically and found that 88% believe routine vaccines are safe. Among those who do not support the requirements, 79% believe that it should be the parents' choice whether or not to vaccinate.

Cited reasons for continued support of requirements include:

- Vaccine effectiveness
- Family responsibility to keep schools safe
- Fear of reemerging diseases if vaccine rates drop
- Importance of protecting children who cannot get vaccinated

Cited reasons for not supporting requirements include:

- Distrust in government agencies
- Concern over children receiving too many vaccines
- Belief that vaccines are made to pay pharmaceutical companies
- Concern over vaccine safety.

Other Vaccine News

COVID Vaccine Updates

Warning Labels: Pfizer and Moderna have updated warning labels on their COVID-19 vaccine products, Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna). They now include safety information about the observed risk of myocarditis and pericarditis being highest in males 12 through 24 years of age. Here are some talking points to use with your patients if they bring up concerns:

- Myocarditis and pericarditis associated with vaccination are rare and treatable side effects.
- COVID infection poses a higher myocarditis risk than vaccination.
- Benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks.

Product Approvals: On July 10, the FDA granted "full" approval for Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine Spikevax for children under 12. This product was previously approved under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and the full Biologics License Application (BLA) has now been approved. This is the first pediatric COVID vaccine that has received BLA approval. This approval is only for those at increased risk for COVID-19, meaning Spikevax is now approved for all adults aged 65 years and older, and individuals aged 6 months through 64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 disease.

Additionally, the FDA has approved a new COVID-19 vaccine from Moderna (mNEXSPIKE™) for those 65+ and those 12-64 with at least one underlying risk factor for COVID-19. Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine (Nuvaxovid™) was also approved for the same groups. This comes after initial approvals were made for everyone 12+.

RFK, Jr. to Stop Funding Gavi

In late June, RFK, Jr. announced his decision to pull funding from Gavi. Gavi is an international vaccine alliance organization that works to increase access to vaccines for children worldwide and has raised over a billion dollars for its efforts. Kennedy criticized Gavi for the rollout of immunization programs and Gavi's response to COVID-19. Though Gavi will be able to continue its work without U.S. support, those in middle and low-income countries may face vaccine shortages without it.

Resources & Upcoming Events

Vaccine Integrity Project: The Vaccine Integrity Project is a new initiative started by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota. The initiative is dedicated to safeguarding vaccine use in the U.S. and aims to engage individuals across the immunization landscape. Thus far, the project has conducted a series of discussions with individuals from across the vaccine and public health ecosystem. While the group establishes next steps, they have been most productive in authoring well-cited viewpoints on recent changes, such as COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and the composition of the ACIP committee. **Check out their viewpoints** and **follow their work for ongoing updates.**

Public Health Communications Collaborative Infographics and Toolkits: The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) continues to create timely resources to bolster public health communications. Recently, they created easy-to-read resources on **whooping cough** and **measles**. These resources can be given to patients and families to help inform them on what the infection is, what to do when exposed or sick, and what treatments may be suggested. A **third handout** dispels myths about Vitamin A and distinguishes between the MMR and MMRV vaccines.

Registration Open: AAP Communicating About Vaccines ECHO: Join the AAP Vaccine Communication ECHO designed for pediatric providers and clinical teams to strengthen their vaccine communication skills. This is a special opportunity to engage directly with nationally recognized vaccine experts and receive real-time coaching using the most up-to-date vaccine communication strategies available. **Click here** for more information and to register.

Upcoming Webinars

- July 17, 12PM: IDPH FAST PHACT Webinar - **Register here**.
- August 20, 12PM: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy
- September 17, 12PM: Preparing for Respiratory Virus Season

Upcoming In-Person Events

IDPH Vaccine Summits for VFC providers located outside of the City of Chicago.

Scan Here

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