



Immunization Newsletter

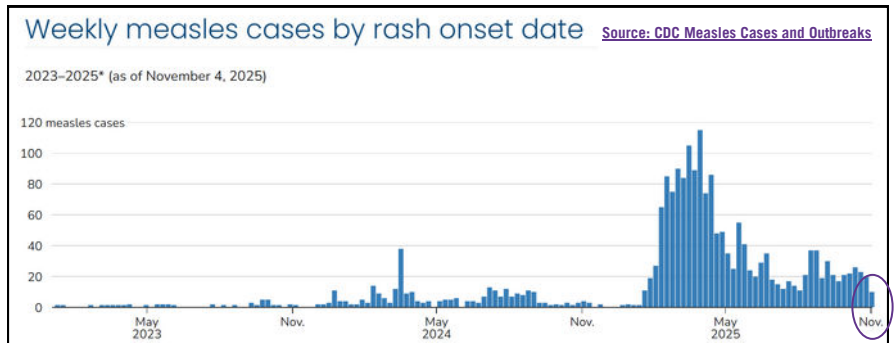
November 2025

Measles Update

Since 2000, measles has been declared eliminated in the U.S. [Declining vaccination rates fueled by misinformation threatens this.](#) According to the CDC, 1,648 cases have been confirmed this year, a figure experts believe is significantly underreported.

66% of cases are among those under age 19. Illinois has seen a total of 14 confirmed cases in 2025, including five since September in the Chicago metropolitan area (four in suburban Cook County and one pediatric case in Lake County, IN).

Clinical resources on measles: [Red Book Online Webinars; Have You Ever Diagnosed Measles?](#) - CHOP; [Measles one-pager](#) - Project Firstline. Find updates and additional resources, including patient-facing material on ICAAP's [Emerging Issues webpage](#).



Immediately local health departments upon suspicion of measles. Do not wait for confirmation.



If reporting in Chicago:

- Call 312-743-9000; select option 2.
- After hours, weekends, or holidays: Call 311 (or 312-744-5000 if outside Chicago) and request the CDPH provider on call.

If reporting outside Chicago:

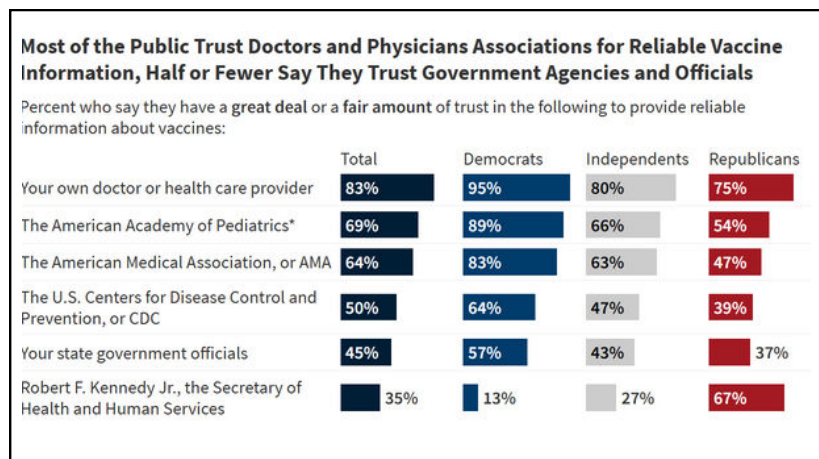
- Contact within 3 hours of suspecting measles.
- If unable to reach your LHD or after hours, weekends, or holidays, call IDPH 217-782-2016.

Public Confidence in Vaccines

New Data on Public Trust in Vaccines

Recent changes and claims made by HHS secretary RFK, Jr. and President Trump have caused confusion and shifted public confidence not only in vaccines but in government health infrastructure in the U.S. According to the recent [Axios-Ipsos American Health Index](#), more Americans believe the U.S. is less healthy under current leadership (2-to-1). Additionally, there is still vaccine skepticism fueled by recent reports surrounding vaccination efficacy and safety and the unproven link between acetaminophen and autism. A [KFF Poll](#) showed that in the days following the public claim that there is a link between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and autism, public trust in the CDC was at the lowest it has been since the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the American Health Index, 26% of respondents said they favor ending vaccination requirements for public school attendance, an increase of 7% from their survey in February.

Pediatricians remain the most trusted source of reliable vaccine information across party lines.



ICAAP's Vaccine Survey

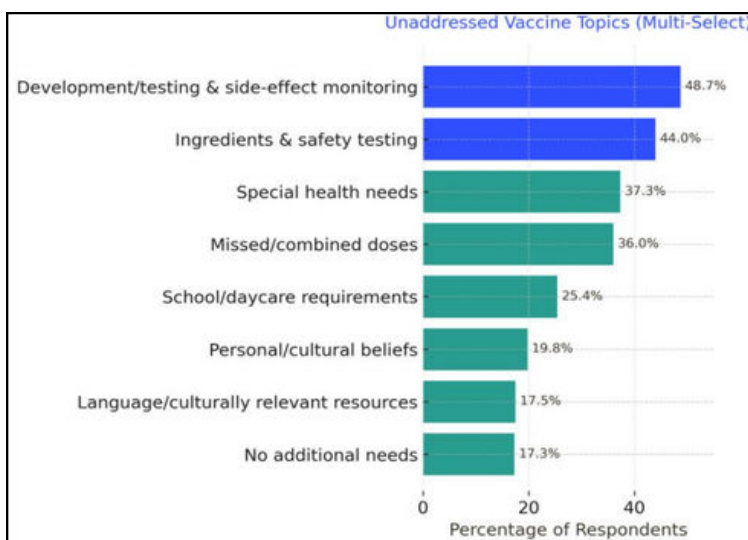
In October, ICAAP conducted its own statewide survey of 520 parents and caregivers to better understand attitudes, barriers, and the motivations around pediatric vaccination. The survey reached people from 284 unique ZIP codes, including urban, suburban and downstate areas. The majority of respondents reported following the vaccine schedule fully (70.8%), while 21.9% delay some vaccines or selectively vaccinate and 5.8% do not vaccinate. On vaccine confidence, 71.7% ranked their confidence a 4 or 5 out of 5 (very confident), followed by 17.5% ranking their confidence at a 3 and 10.8% ranking their confidence at a 2 or 1.

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Public Confidence in Vaccines and More

Respondents named concerns and barriers to vaccination, and nearly 50% identified development/testing and side-effect monitoring. Parents and caregivers in IL want more transparency on vaccination development and effects, in addition to healthcare personalization.

While most parents do vaccinate their children in IL, there are still gaps where hesitation thrives. Vaccine messaging that leads with a pediatrician authority, plain-language, accessibility, and openly acknowledging concerns are most likely to reach parents and make an impact. Stay tuned for more on how ICAAP will use the survey findings!



Respiratory Virus Vaccine Effectiveness

The Vaccine Integrity Project recently conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to evaluate the efficacy, effectiveness, and safety of U.S.-licensed vaccines against COVID-19, RSV, and influenza. The authors reviewed 511 studies and stratified their results based on age, pregnancy, and immune status. COVID-19 and influenza vaccines and RSV immunizations were all associated with decreased hospitalizations and reduction of severe outcomes across all age groups. Neither COVID-19 nor RSV immunizations given during pregnancy were associated with preterm birth, stillbirth, or birth abnormalities. COVID-19 vaccine-associated myocarditis remains a rare side effect in adolescent males and no increased myocarditis risk was observed in children under 12 years. Read the full article in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) or the [Executive Summary](#) on the CIDRAP website. Additionally, the Vaccine Integrity Project has updated their [Data Visualization Tool](#) that allows users to examine, filter, and export the data used in their review by virus and population.



COVID-19 Vaccines

Questions on Malpractice & Liability in 2025

With good reason, many clinicians have had questions around the difference between malpractice liability for "off-label" uses of 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines and insurance coverage. ICAAP has created a reference guide outlining insurance coverage, documenting shared clinical decision making, liability considerations, and more. This handout is informational only, it is not legal advice, nor is it meant to change the clinical workflows that you may already have in place. Download the handout [here](#).

Additional resources:

1. AAP: Webinar recording [Clearing the Air on Liability and Practice Considerations](#)
2. AAP: [COVID-19 Medical Liability Considerations](#)
3. Common Health Coalition: [Shared Clinical Decision-Making Guide on Respiratory Vaccines for Clinicians](#)
4. Common Health Coalition: [Provider Liability / Coverage and Pharmacist Scope of Practice Scenarios](#)
5. Common Health Coalition: [Explainer: COVID-19 Vaccine FDA Label Change](#)

2025–26 COVID-19 Vaccine Products Clinical/Operational Reference			
Insurance Coverage	- Health plans will continue to cover all ACIP-recommended immunizations that were recommended as of September 1, 2025, including updated formulations of the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, with no cost-sharing for patients through the end of 2026. - statement from America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). - Federally regulated insurance plans: fully-insured plans subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), shared clinical decision making is required to be covered through ACA. - State-regulated insurance programs will cover; Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) standing order and state legislation supporting coverage.		
Documentation	- Documenting Shared Clinical Decision Making (SCDM): The AAP recommends documenting that discussion about the vaccine occurred and a decision to vaccinate followed shared clinical decision making. - No additional documentation is required for health insurance - bill as you would other vaccines. - In IL, PCPs, specialty physicians, PAs, NPs, RNs, and pharmacists can conduct SCDM (MAs and pharmacy techs cannot). - SCDM does not need to be a face-to-face conversation and does not need to take place on the same day as administration. - Example: A RN has a conversation on the phone with the parent or patient when they make the appointment, then an MA could administer the vaccine at the visit. - As always, patients must receive a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS); record publication date and date given. - More information on SCDM from Common Health Coalition here.		
Informed Consent	- Standard informed consent processes should be followed for any vaccine administration and no new forms are required to meet the SCDM standard. - The AAP recommends considering signed consent forms particularly for patients who receive the vaccine for "off label" indications. - Informed consent should be documented to minimize liability.		
Malpractice Considerations	SPIKEVAX (Moderna, 2025/26 Formula)	COMIRNATY (Pfizer, BioNTech, 2025/26 Formula)	NUVAXOVID (Novavax, 2025/26 Formula)
	FDA-approved: 6mo-64 years with ≥1 underlying condition and all those 65+.	FDA-approved: 5-64 years with ≥1 underlying condition and all those 65+.	FDA-approved: 12-64 years with ≥1 underlying condition and all those 65+.
- Consult the SOC Underlying Conditions website referred to in the FDA package inserts for all COVID-19 vaccine formulations for a list of high risk conditions, including asthma, mood disorders, and physical inactivity. - Off label use is common and legally permissible if aligned with standard of care (SOC) - state and professional society recommendations help support SOC. FDA and ACIP recommendations do not determine SOC. - Recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the IDPH. - Consult your own malpractice insurance with special attention to areas added for COVID-19. Example of message from malpractice coverage supplier to member on 2025/26 COVID-19 vaccines: "Clinicians should seek guidance from their professional association and follow best judgment and guidance from the clinical experts. There is no prohibitive law or regulation. As relating to MPL coverage, we will stand behind clinical judgment." - More information on medical liability from the AAP here.			

When determining which products to stock, remember you can order as little as one box, and if ordering directly from the manufacturers, products are returnable for a partial or full refund, with all products for children under 12 years returnable for a 100% refund. The return policies when ordering from distributors or wholesalers may be different. If you have to deny a patient vaccination because you don't have the right product, please ensure they know it is not because they are ineligible and direct them somewhere they can receive the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Immunocompromised People

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) released it's 2025/2026 [COVID-19 vaccine guidance](#). All adults and children who are immunocompromised should receive an age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine, along with all household members and close contacts.

Resources and Events

Resources

- CHOP's [vaccine dictionary](#) to help you talk to families about vaccines.
- Visit viraltruths.org from Vaccinate Your Family to provide plain language answers to the questions most frequently asked about vaccines.
- Use AAP's [Vaccine Confidence Campaign Toolkit](#) to share messaging on a number of topics including vaccine ingredients and community immunity.
- From the Infectious Diseases Society of America (ISDA): [Strengthening Adult and Adolescent Immunization Coverage](#), a new vaccine advocacy toolkit.
- It's RSV season - use ICAAP's new [RSV Private Stock Reference Guide](#) to help you determine which product to order.
- Check out ICAAP's [Respiratory Virus Toolkit](#) or any of our other [social media toolkits](#) for free social media images and posting guides!

Other News

The AAP filed an [updated lawsuit](#) last week against HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., asking a court to disband the ACIP members he unilaterally appointed and to overturn recent decisions made by that panel.

Upcoming Webinars

- November 19, 12PM: ICAAP Webinar: Managing and Preparing for Outbreaks
- December 17, 12PM: ICAAP webinar - AAP Immunizations Update and Best Practices from Other States.



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

