



Immunization Newsletter

January 2026

Sudden Changes to CDC Vaccine Recommendations

On January 5, federal health officials issued [sweeping changes to the U.S. childhood immunization schedule](#). The CDC now universally recommends less vaccines, removing broad recommendations on hepatitis A and B, rotavirus, RSV, influenza, and meningococcal. Immunizations recommendations are also now categorized into three groups: All Children, Certain High-Risk Groups or Populations, and Based on Shared Clinical Decision-Making. This news was sudden and absent of new data supporting the changes made. View a comparison of Denmark and the U.S. schedule [here](#).

Previously, the U.S. immunization recommendations were based off decades of data, research, and evidence. Vaccine recommendations were made using in transparent settings, with opportunities for public comment. These changes were made with none of these processes having taken place. Keep reading to see what this means for you.



"This is no way to make our country healthier."

-Andrew Racine, MD, PhD, FAAP

[Full statement](#) from AAP President

CDC Changes Immunization Schedule

What Federal Changes Mean for Vaccinators in IL

Vaccine operations and insurance coverage for vaccines in Illinois, at this time, are not impacted by Federal announcements last week. Both [CDPH](#) and [IDPH](#) reaffirmed their support of evidence-based recommendations. Illinois guidelines match the CDC's August 7, 2025, childhood immunization schedule and are consistent with current recommendations from both the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

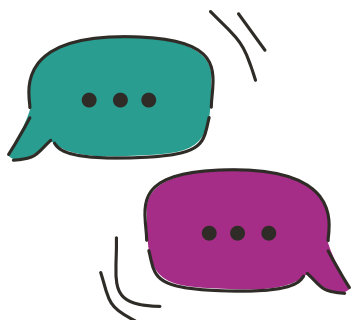
You can and should continue to **recommend and offer immunizations to all children according to the AAP schedule.**



ICAAP Joined AAP Urging Congress to Protect Vaccines

[Over 200 groups](#) signed a joint letter to Congress, urging them to protect access to vaccines and science-based vaccine recommendations following the abrupt changes to the CDC vaccination schedule. View the letter [here](#).

Resources for Communicating About the Federal Vaccine Schedule Changes



- From AAP - [Fact Checked: U.S. Vaccine Recommendations are Appropriate for Children in the United States](#)
- From the Vaccine Integrity Project - [The Myth of an Over-Vaccinated America: The US DOES Follow Global Consensus](#)
- From The Evidence Collective - [Preparation: Routine Childhood Vaccination Schedule and Denmark Announcement](#)
- From Paul Offit - [On Being Denmark](#)
- From Your Local Epidemiologist - [A Unilateral Change to Childhood Vaccines: What It Means For You](#)

Vaccine News

Respiratory Virus Season in IL

As of January 2, overall respiratory illness activity in Illinois reached "high" levels. Flu activity in the state has climbed to "Very High", the most severe category of respiratory illness activity, and COVID-19 activity is "moderate". View the IDPH [Seasonal Respiratory Illness Dashboard](#) for respiratory disease surveillance data.

According to the IDPH [Illinois Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#), only 28% of Illinoisans aged 6 months to 4 years old have received their flu shot this season, while only 3% have received the COVID-19 immunization. A similar low vaccination rate is also occurring for children aged 5-17, with 18% receiving a flu vaccine, and 2.5% receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

On January 5, [IDPH reported](#) Illinois' first pediatric influenza death of the 2025-2026 season, one of 17 pediatric deaths reported for this season.

2024-25 COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness

A recent [MMWR](#) examines the effectiveness of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines in children against severe COVID-19 illness. Among immunocompetent children aged 9 months–4 years, vaccine effectiveness was an estimated 76% against COVID-19–associated emergency department or urgent care visits and an estimated 56% among children and adolescents aged 5–17 years, compared with those who did not receive a vaccine. The report shows that vaccination with a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine provided children with additional protection compared to unvaccinated children.

New CPT Codes for Immunization Counseling

Three new CPT codes for immunization counseling with **no immunization administered** took effect on January 1, 2026. These codes represent standalone immunization counseling performed by a physician or other qualified health care professional and are based on the total time spent counseling on immunizations that were not administered.

- 90482: Counseling with no immunization administered, 3-10 minutes.
- 90483: Greater than 10 minutes to 20 minutes.
- 90484: Greater than 20 minutes or more.

For more information, see the AAP article [here](#) and coding fact sheets from the AAP [here](#).

Resources and Events

New Outreach Materials Available!

Two new social media toolkits have been added to ICAAP's [Vaccine Outreach](#) page! These free, ready-to-use toolkits feature a new outreach helper, Rory the Lion, to take families back to vaccine basics. With facts about vaccines and messages that encourage families to stay up-to-date on recommended vaccines, validate families' questions, and emphasize partnership with pediatricians.

Share these images and messages on your social media pages or in your patient communications today!



Additional Resources

- From Vaccinate Your Family - The [Vaccination Community Learning Program \(VCLP\)](#) is a free, self-paced resource designed to help build vaccine knowledge, refine communication techniques, and build confidence to support informed vaccination decisions. Currently, the VCLP offers courses on foundational vaccine knowledge, vaccine science and safety, vaccine confidence, and overcoming vaccine barriers.
- The Vaccine Integrity Project released a short [video](#) recapping the erosion of federal vaccine policymaking that happened in 2025 as well as the response and unity of medical organizations like the AAP that are committed to protecting vaccine access.

Upcoming Webinars & Events

- January 16, 2026, 12PM: Using Motivational Interviewing to Combat Vaccine Hesitancy.
- February 11, 2026, 12PM: Hepatitis B Vaccination: Your Role in Lifelong Protection
- Attention Chicago VFC Providers: 2026 [CDPH VFC Training Registration](#) is now open!



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