



Immunization Newsletter

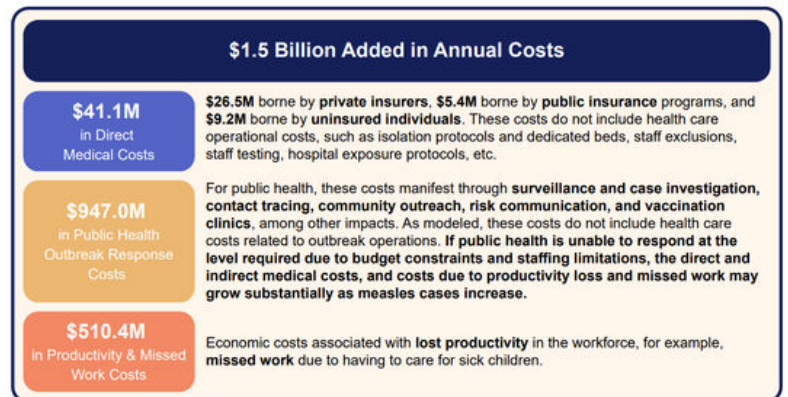
March 17, 2026

Measles in 2026

With 1,362 confirmed measles cases reported on the [CDC measles dashboard](#) as of March 12, the U.S. has already reached nearly half of the 2,258 cases recorded in all of 2025. Most of this year's confirmed cases (92%) are among people who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown. In Illinois, IDPH has confirmed three cases of measles so far, see potential exposure locations [here](#). Wild-type measles virus was detected in a wastewater sample in Chicago's Chicago Lawn and Ashburn neighborhoods in [early February](#), indicating at least one person infected with measles was present in Chicago in early February. Please remain vigilant for signs and symptoms of measles in your patients and recommend MMR vaccination.

The Cost of Measles

The Common Health Coalition and the Yale School of Public Health published a [new modeling analysis](#) that forecasts that a sustained 1% annual decline in MMR vaccine coverage could lead to more than 17,000 measles cases, 4,000 hospitalizations, and 36 preventable deaths each year. The anticipated fiscal burden of disease could cost the U.S. \$1.5 billion annually and ~\$7.8 billion in cumulative costs by 2030.



Source: [Common Health Coalition and Yale School of Public Health](#)

Resources

- ICAAP - [Emerging Issues Page](#)
- IDPH - [Measles Outbreak Simulator](#)
- AAP - [Measles Discussion Guide for Clinicians](#)
- AAP - [Fact Checked - The MMR Vaccine](#)

Vaccine News

ACIP Changes Blocked by AAP Lawsuit

On Monday, March 16, a federal judge [blocked the changes to the pediatric vaccine schedule](#) made under HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s leadership and found that his selected committee members were unlawfully appointed. All previous recommendations made by this ACIP committee have been halted. The ACIP meeting that was scheduled for March 18-19 has been postponed. The [lawsuit](#) was filed by the AAP and five other leading medical organizations.



This decision effectively means that a science-based process for developing immunization recommendations **is not to be trifled with and represents a critical step to restoring scientific decision-making to federal vaccine policy** that has kept children healthy for years.



-[AAP President](#) Andrew D. Racine, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP

Pediatricians and AAP Remain Most Trusted

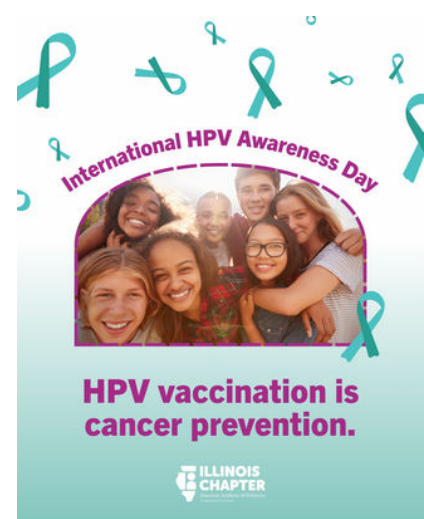
A [new survey](#) from the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that American adults have more trust in their primary care doctor and the AAP to provide trustworthy information than they do in federal health agencies. When asked about vaccine recommendations, the survey shows that the CDC's current recommendations are less likely to be accepted than the recommendations of the AAP. In situations where the CDC and AAP recommendations are not aligned, Americans are nearly four times more likely to accept the recommendation of the AAP (42%) than the CDC (11%). Primary health care providers remain the most confident source of trustworthy information about matters concerning public health.

HPV Awareness

March 4 was International HPV Awareness Day and January was Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. This IDPH Cervical Cancer Report for [Illinois](#) indicates that in 2022, there were 497 females diagnosed with cervical cancer in Illinois. In 2023, 160 females died from cervical cancer in Illinois.

Resources to help promote HPV vaccination:

- [Ask About HPV](#) - FAQs and patient stories
- [Healthychildren.org](#) - HPV: Facts about the virus
- [Kids Aren't Thinking about HPV](#) - A national public awareness program promoting on-time HPV vaccination



Respiratory Virus Updates

Respiratory Virus Activity 2025-2026

The 2025-26 respiratory virus season has been classified as ‘high severity’ by the CDC, with [90 reported influenza-associated pediatric deaths](#) nationally so far. In [Illinois](#), there have been five pediatric flu deaths and one pediatric RSV death. [IDPH warns that](#) statewide RSV activity data indicate Illinois has not yet reached peak rates, potentially delaying the end of the RSV season beyond March. Currently, infant RSV antibody administration is still recommended from October through March. RSV vaccine for pregnant persons can continue to be administered through the [end of March](#). *IDPH will continue to monitor and assess whether the seasonal RSV immunization season will be extended.*

Looking ahead, the Vaccine Integrity Project announced [an evidence-based review](#) has begun to assess vaccine safety and effectiveness for the 2026–27 respiratory virus season.

Respiratory Virus Activity Review 2024-2025

A recent [MMWR](#) summarizes respiratory virus activity in the U.S. from 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025, including COVID-19, flu, RSV, and other respiratory viruses such as rhinoviruses and enteroviruses. For COVID-19, hospitalizations were highest among those over the age of 75, followed by those under 6 months of age. RSV immunizations lowered hospitalization rates in infants 0-7 months old by 28-43%. However, infants 0–11 months old still experienced the highest RSV-associated hospitalization rates among all age groups, followed by children aged 12–23 months and adults aged over 75 years. Flu hospitalization rates were not covered in this report, but flu rates during this season peaked at a 31.6% positivity rate in February of 2025.

Updated Standing Order Templates

Immunize.org standing order templates have been updated with a callout box stating they are compatible with the AAP’s 2026 recommended immunization schedule. Templates on vaccination during pregnancy align with ACOG recommendations. The updated templates also now feature the specific MMWR publication dates for the ACIP recommendations on which they are based. Fifteen updated templates are available for download [here](#). Clinics using previous versions of these templates do not need to change them to remain consistent with the AAP-recommended schedule.



Resources

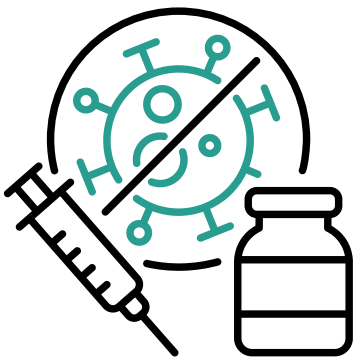
New ICAAP Patient Resources

ICAAP newly published a poster and patient FAQ that highlights why Illinois follows the AAP vaccine recommendations. Download these resources:

- [Illinois Follows the AAP Immunization Recommendations Poster](#)
- [Illinois Follows the AAP Immunization FAQ Flyer](#)



Additional Resources



- Autism research leaders have formed a new [Independent Autism Coordinating Committee \(IACC\)](#) with the goal of “accelerating scientific discovery, improving care, and positively impacting the lives of people with autism.”
- Voices for Vaccines distributes Just the Facts materials through [YouTube](#) and a regular [newsletter](#) to proactively address widely circulating misinformation.
- Each year, Vaccinate Your Family publishes the [State of the ImmUnion](#), outlining policy recommendations to strengthen protections against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- North Dakota State University's Center for Immunization Research and Education offers five free, [CME-accredited vaccine education modules](#) that address vaccine safety, immunization recommendations, and vaccine hesitancy.



Wednesday, March 18 webinar: HPV Vaccination: The Latest Data and What Federal Guidance Means for IL

Register for this and other upcoming events [here](#).

