



Immunization Newsletter

April 14, 2026

Promoting Vaccines - in the Clinic and Beyond!

National Infant Immunization Week is April 20-27. Amid decreasing immunization rates and increasing cases of vaccine preventable disease, it is more crucial than ever to actively promote immunizations. ICAAP's patient outreach page makes outreach simple and fast with **14 different ready-to-go** campaigns. We've created visually appealing, ready-to-use social media toolkits, patient flyers, and posters to help you and your clinics lead effective vaccine conversations with your patients and their families.

The AAP shared other actions pediatricians can take:

- Vaccine Schedule: Pro-vaccine messengers should keep reinforcing that the AAP schedule has broad support from major medical organizations and is designed to support, not suppress, dialogue between families and pediatricians.
- Measles: Ongoing measles outbreaks remain an important opportunity to highlight the stakes of declining MMR coverage. Encourage families to speak with a pediatrician and avoid commenting on specific parents' decisions not to vaccinate. The goal is to build trust, not shame.
- Refrain from engaging with inflammatory posts or conspiracies. These carry amplification risks and are unlikely to change minds.



Respiratory Virus Updates

Respiratory Virus Activity In Illinois

Respiratory virus season seems to finally be coming to an end as flu, RSV, and COVID-19 percent positivity continues to drop nationwide and throughout the state. In Illinois, cumulative [respiratory virus activity](#) is considered "low" and hospital admissions are trending downwards for all three major viruses.

Although RSV activity is decreasing, percent positivity and ED visits remained elevated later in the season, resulting in an [extended](#) RSV immunization season for Illinois and many other states. Infant RSV immunizations are available through April 30.

Influenza Vaccine Update



Interim 2025-2026 influenza vaccine effectiveness was [published in an MMWR](#). Vaccine effectiveness (VE) against outpatient visits was, on average, highest in children and adolescents (VE = 38%–41%). Protection against influenza-associated hospitalization was also highest in children and adolescents (VE = 41%), whereas VE against hospitalization in adults aged 18–64 years (VE = 29%) and ≥65 years (VE = 31%) was lower.

These data come after the CDC declared a [high-severity influenza season](#) for children 0-17 years of age, with influenza hospitalization at its highest for this age group since the 2010-'11 season. As of April 13, 139 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2025-2026 influenza season. Approximately 85% of pediatric flu deaths this season have occurred in children who were not fully vaccinated against the flu. Currently in Illinois, only 28.6% of children 0-4 and 20.0% of children 5-17 [have been vaccinated](#) against the flu. The [AAP strongly recommends](#) that every child six months and older without a medical contraindication receive a flu vaccine.

Vaccine manufacturers are preparing to update the flu vaccine composition for next season to better match the strains expected to be circulating. See [this announcement](#) from the FDA regarding 2026-2027 flu vaccines.

Other News

Drops in Vaccine Rates

According to a recent [MMWR](#), children born in 2021-2022 had a drop in rates of receiving five routine vaccines compared to children born two years prior. Declines in childhood vaccination coverage by age 24 months ranging between 1–2 percentage points were seen for the primary series of Haemophilus influenzae type b, the hepatitis B birth dose, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (≥ 4 doses), and rotavirus. Influenza vaccination saw the largest drop, with coverage of ≥ 2 doses by age 24 months decreasing from 61.0% to 53.5% across the same birth cohorts. According to the report, just over 1% of children were completely unvaccinated by 2 years of age. Coverage was consistently lower among children eligible for the VFC program compared with those not VFC-eligible, and vaccination rates varied widely by jurisdiction.

Measles in the U.S.

As of April 9, the CDC is reporting [1,714 confirmed measles cases](#), nearly 75% of last year's record-breaking total. Measles has been reported in 33 states - and 73% of cases have been among children and teens. In Illinois, four cases have been reported in 2026. A March 31, 2026 notice from Cook County Public Health Department shared a list of recent [possible exposure](#) locations, including O'Hare airport. IDPH continues to track Illinois case counts and exposure locations [here](#).

92% of measles cases in the U.S. are among people who are unvaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status.



Wednesday, May 20: Guidance and Updates on Summer Travel Immunizations

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

