



Immunization Newsletter

May 13, 2026

Illinois Maintains School Vaccination Rates

On May 4, IDPH published a [news release](#) stating that ten of the eleven tracked school-required vaccinations are at or above the community immunity threshold of 95% vaccine coverage. According to the [IDPH School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#), in the 2024-2025 school year, three immunizations - meningococcal, pneumococcal, and Hib - were below 95%. This school year, the only immunization under the 95% coverage rate is the meningococcal vaccine. However, even this vaccine rate has shown improvement at 94.39% in the 2025-26 school year, up from 93.88% the previous school year.

Vaccine	School Year 2025-2026	Change from School Year 2024-2025
Varicella (chickenpox)	96.46%	0.36
DTP/DTaP/Td (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough)	96.15%	0.19
Hepatitis B	97.25%	-0.03
Hib	95.68%	1.01
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	96.78%	0.24
Meningococcal	94.39%	0.51
Pneumococcal	95.61%	1.31
Polio	96.29%	0.24
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough)	95.82%	0.42

At a time when many states are seeing declining immunization coverage rates, we are grateful for the work being done by you and your teams to keep children and communities protected against vaccine preventable illness in Illinois!

Federal Updates

Restored CDC Schedules and Blocked COVID Study

In compliance with the March 16 [federal court order](#) in the case between American Academy of Pediatrics v. Kennedy, the CDC has officially restored all recommended immunization schedules on the CDC website to the August 2025 versions. This means that routine recommendations for hepatitis A and B, influenza, meningococcal ACWY, rotavirus, HPV, and MMRV have been restored. COVID-19 vaccines remain under shared clinical decision-making (SCDM). Federal health officials have already filed a [Notice of Appeal](#) to challenge the court order which also halted the votes of the newly appointed ACIP members while the case continues. For a recap on the court case, check out the [Common Health Coalition's summary](#). HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. also recently [updated the ACIP charter](#) to focus on rare vaccine injuries, loosen the expertise requirements for ACIP members, and add liaison organizations that have promoted vaccine misinformation. The AAP, ICAAP, and over 130 other organizations [oppose](#) the charter and its potential impacts on vaccine confidence and access.

The CDC's Acting Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, cancelled the publication of a study on the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine efficacy stating concerns about the study's methodology. The study had already been approved by the CDC for publication before Dr. Bhattacharya removed its publishing authorization. The study showed that the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines were effective in lowering the risk of hospitalization. Data for this study were collected through the [CDC-led VISION collaboration](#), which leverages electronic health record data from nine U.S. health systems to evaluate vaccine effectiveness across multiple respiratory virus seasons and age groups. This methodology has been the CDC's standardized approach for evaluating vaccine effectiveness against respiratory viruses and was recently applied in a study on influenza vaccine effectiveness published last month in MMWR.

Bill Strengthening VFC

On April 21, [H.R. 8425 - Strengthening the Vaccines for Children Program Act of 2026](#) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Kim Schrier and Rep. John Joyce. H.R. 8425 aims to improve access to VFC vaccines by extending VFC eligibility to all children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), allowing VFC-eligible children to access vaccines at more locations, and expanding Medicaid vaccine counseling and education reimbursements.



Respiratory Viruses & Other Updates

Prepping for the 2026-27 Season

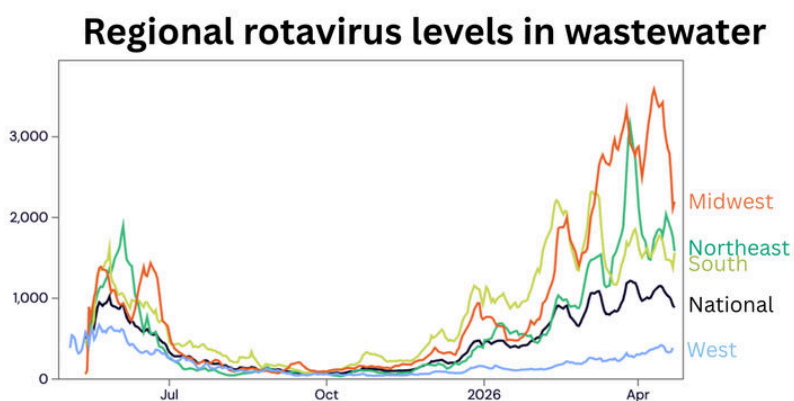
In collaboration with the American Medical Association, the Vaccine Integrity Project launched a 2026-27 respiratory virus season review process. On April 14, evidence review protocols for [COVID-19](#), [influenza](#), and [RSV](#) were posted. Evidence reviews for the 2026–27 respiratory season are anticipated to be released in early September. Clinicians should expect updated information and policy guidance to follow later this fall as these reviews are finalized.

New RSV Immunization Effectiveness Data

The first study that analyzed the effectiveness of maternal RSV vaccination and infant nirsevimab immunization was published in [Pediatrics](#) on May 4. The study was a prospective, randomized, open-label phase 4 study involving 181 pregnant women that included four groups: maternal RSVpreF vaccine alone; maternal RSVpreF vaccine/infant nirsevimab at birth; maternal RSVpreF vaccine/infant nirsevimab at 3 months; and infant nirsevimab alone at birth. The results of the study showed that any of the four tested combinations of sequential administration were safe and provided high RSV-A and -B nAb titers in infants that persisted through 3 months after delivery.

Rotavirus Surge in the Midwest

Rotavirus test positivity rates and wastewater detection are currently high across the country, but are especially high in the Midwest, according to [wastewater collection data](#). [According to the CDC](#), children are more likely to be exposed to rotavirus in schools, daycare, and around family members in the winter and spring months (January through June). There is no cure for rotavirus, and the best way to prevent it is by vaccinating. [Studies have shown](#) 9 out of 10 children who get a rotavirus vaccine are protected from severe disease, and 7 out of 10 children are protected against infection.



Source: [Your Local Epidemiologist](#)

Preparing for Summer

Spring into Summer

With the school year wrapping up and patients gearing up for summer fun, now is the perfect time to remind families about and schedule patients for back-to-school vaccinations. ICAAP offers [digital immunization social media resources](#) to support your outreach efforts and reinforce the importance of timely vaccination with your patient population. ICAAP also has an [exemption handout for clinicians](#) that elaborates on annual exemption renewals for school immunization requirements.

Summer Travel and Measles Update

On April 27, South Carolina health officials [announced](#) the end of the measles outbreak in the state. This was the largest outbreak in the U.S. in over 35 years, with 997 recorded cases and at least 21 hospitalizations. Over [17,000 doses](#) of the MMR vaccine were administered statewide. Nationally, as of [April 30](#), there are 1,814 confirmed measles cases reported in 37 states. View this webinar from the National Foundation of Infectious Diseases (NFID) on the current national measles outbreak for more information: [recording](#) and [slides](#).

The CDC has [issued an alert](#) to health departments to report measles cases within 24 hours and to conduct contact tracing, especially in under-vaccinated communities. Infants between 6 and 11 months and traveling internationally or to an area of the U.S. with a current outbreak, should receive an MMR dose for protection. This CDPH handout in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) highlights the importance of measles vaccination before travel for patients.



Register today for ICAAP's free, one-hour CME-approved webinar on [Summer Travel Immunizations](#) on May 20 at 12pm CT!

Other News

Attitudes Toward Vaccines & Media Use

A new [study](#) analyzed MMR vaccine hesitancy in adults during the 2025 measles outbreaks and how media and news outlets influence their beliefs. Overall, the majority of adults surveyed (83%) believed that the benefits of receiving the MMR vaccine outweigh the risks, but 1 in 6 adults were vaccine hesitant. Researchers found that the biggest difference between the news habits of vaccine hesitant vs non-hesitant adults was "selective media engagement", meaning hesitant adults were more likely to obtain health information from unofficial sources such as influencers and alternative health news sources. People who frequently interact with "new-right" media were more than double as likely to be vaccine hesitant. This new [guide](#) from the AAP can help parents spot misleading health claims on the internet.

Updated HPV Vaccine Report

The Vaccine Integrity project released a updated [report](#) reviewing 274 peer-reviewed studies published between September 2024 and January 2026 for the safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine. Meta-analysis showed that vaccinated individuals had a 65% lower risk of invasive cervical cancer, with even greater protection when vaccination was initiated at or before age 16. The report also discusses emerging evidence for the efficacy of the single dose HPV vaccine, which may offer protection comparable to that of the two and three-dose series in females. However, additional research is needed to verify the efficacy in males, protection against non-cervical cancers, and the longevity of single dose protection. An executive summary and a data visualization tool can be found on the [Vaccine Integrity Project website](#).

Additional Resources

- Get answers to frequently asked questions on coding and payment, COVID-19, hepatitis B, measles, RSV, and more with the [AAP Immunization FAQs](#) page.
- Learn about shared clinical decision making, sample language for documenting conversations, and more in this AAP guide [Shared Clinical Decision Making for Immunizations](#)
- The [Let's Get Real](#) campaign from Immunize.org is a parent-facing page where they can explore answers to popular questions about getting their kids vaccinated.
- The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) started a biweekly vaccination information series with Unbiased Science: [The State of US Vaccine Policy](#)