



# Immunization Newsletter

June 23, 2026

## Summer Travel Vaccinations

Summer travel season is here. Discuss summer travel-related immunizations with patients and their families by asking them if they have upcoming travel plans. It is a good idea to regularly review the [CDC's Travel Health Notices](#) (THN) to stay informed about current outbreak risks, recommendations, and restrictions. ICAAP recently hosted a webinar on Summer Travel Immunizations, which can be viewed here - [recording](#) and [slides](#). The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases is hosting its own travel-related webinar titled [Strategies for Protecting Patients Before Travel](#) on June 24 at 1 PM.

## School Vaccine Requirements

The Illinois [2026-2027 Minimum Immunization Requirements Entering a Child Care Facility or School](#) are available on the IDPH website. The requirements have **not** changed. Now is a great time to encourage families to schedule their back-to-school appointments. Additionally, check out ICAAP's [School Immunization Resources webpage](#) for clinical tools, posters, parent handouts, and social media materials intended to make conversations about routine and school-required vaccines clearer and easier for families to act on.



# Federal Updates

## Executive Order

On May 29, 2026, President Donald Trump signed an [executive order](#) in an apparent effort to reestablish the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) immunization schedule as overhauled under Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s leadership. The order [calls on the committee](#) to align with the January 2026 U.S. Department of HHS report that compares the U.S. immunization schedule to peer countries and proposes decreasing the number of recommended vaccines in the U.S. from 17 to 11. The order adds that any changes should ensure that Americans retain their current access to vaccines. This comes after the schedule was recently changed back to the July 2025 version following a judge's ruling to do so. At this time, this order does not impact vaccine program operations or recommendations - please continue to make vaccine recommendations based on the AAP immunization schedule.



## AAP Immunization Schedules

The AAP recently [announced plans](#) to release guidance on respiratory virus immunization. Flu vaccine recommendations are anticipated to be issued in early August, and RSV and COVID-19 vaccine recommendations in early September. The AAP said that some small changes to their guidance may come before the end of the year or in early 2027 - and will always be in the best interest of.

## 2026-27 COVID-19 Vaccine Formula

On May 29, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adopted the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee's [recommendation](#) to formulate the 2026-2027 COVID-19 vaccines using the XFG subvariant. This differs from the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation for use of the LP.8.1 strain, which the FDA had recommended for U.S. vaccines the prior season. Differences between the U.S. and WHO recommendations for formulations of the COVID-19 vaccines are not uncommon.

# New Research & Updates

## Systematic Review of Aluminum-Adjuvanted Vaccines and Health Effects

A [systematic review](#) analyzed potential side effects associated with aluminum-adjuvanted vaccines. The review looked at 59 studies published from March 2023 to November 2025. It found no associations between aluminum-containing vaccines and serious or long-term health consequences, including autism spectrum disorder, type 1 diabetes, asthma, headache, myalgia, and other chronic conditions. These findings are comparable to those of previous studies and further support the safety of vaccines.



## Tdap Vaccines Protect Infants

In May, the Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) completed [a comprehensive safety review](#) of the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine during pregnancy. The findings reinforced longstanding evidence that maternal Tdap vaccination provides clear public health benefits by reducing the risk of pertussis in infants in the first few months of life. They did not find any increased risk of serious adverse events during pregnancy. This report was released following a year in which pertussis outbreaks occurred across the U.S., impacting newborns. According to [the CDC](#), in 2025, the highest rates of severe illness and death from pertussis occurred in infants less than 1 year old.

## No Child Deaths Linked to COVID-19 Vaccines

According to [a report released by the FDA](#), there have been no pediatric deaths directly linked to COVID-19 vaccines, despite prior claims that the agency had identified previously unreported deaths of at least 10 children. The FDA analysis reviewed 96 reports of pediatric deaths submitted to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) from August 2025 to December 2025 and found no deaths were certain to be linked to COVID-19 vaccines. Here is an [Op-Ed](#) from the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy on how this unfolded.

# Other News & Upcoming Events

## Meningococcal Resources

Nationally, cases of meningococcal disease have [increased](#) since 2021. Here are some helpful reminders:

- **MenACWY:** Routine vaccination for all children 11-12 years of age and a booster at 16 years of age. Recommendations for special situations can be viewed [here](#).
- **MenB:** Recommended for children 10 years and older who are at increased risk for meningococcal B infection. Anyone 16 through 23 years of age can also choose to get the vaccine. Further dosing information is available [here](#).
- **MenABCWY:** Two pentavalent meningococcal vaccines ([Penmenvy](#) & [Penbraya](#)) are available for individuals between the ages of 16 and 23 who are recommended to receive MenACWY and MenB vaccines during the same visit. With Penmenvy, Bexsero must be used for subsequent MenB doses. With Penbraya, Trumenba must be used for subsequent MenB doses. Bexero and Trumenba are not interchangeable, and the same product must be used for all doses of the vaccine. These vaccines help ensure full protection in fewer doses, which can ultimately increase vaccination rates.

## AHIP Announcement

Last month, AHIP [reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring affordable access to vaccines](#). As part of this commitment, all AHIP member health plans will continue covering all ACIP-recommended immunizations without cost-sharing through the end of 2027. This coverage policy reinforces continued access to essential preventive care.

## Upcoming ICAAP Webinars



**July 8**

**Back to School Immunizations: Addressing Vaccine Exemptions**

12PM - 1PM

**August 12**

**The Current Landscape Around Vaccine Policy and Advocacy**

12PM - 1PM

Free CME available. Register at [illinoisaap.org/events](https://illinoisaap.org/events) or scan the QR code.

