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Measles Update

As of September 18, the CDC has confirmed **3,471** measles cases and 39 outbreaks across 47 jurisdictions in the U.S. An outbreak in Pennsylvania has already led to **four** measles-related deaths among unvaccinated individuals, including children.

Illinois has **confirmed 22** measles cases so far this year. IDPH **identified an outbreak** in Douglas County with at least four linked cases. All measles exposure locations are listed on [IDPH's website](#).

If a patient has **signs or symptoms** of measles, the local health department should be notified *immediately*.

A Johns Hopkins **study** determined that each measles case in the U.S. in 2025 cost ~\$60,000, for a total of \$134 million!



Download social media images and other parent- and clinician-facing materials on ICAAP's [webpage](#).

New Tool for Disease Tracking

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), Johns Hopkins, and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists have partnered with local health agencies to create a new **U.S. Disease Tracker**. The tracker currently monitors measles, invasive meningococcal disease, and pertussis cases. It will expand to cover other vaccine-preventable illnesses in the near future.

Respiratory Virus Season

The AAP released its recommendations for flu, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations for the 2026–2027 season. [IDPH](#) and the [CDPH](#) endorse the AAP's guidance, as recommended by the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee. For more information, view the [slides](#) and the [recording](#) of ICAAP's Preparing for Respiratory Virus Season webinar hosted on September 9. Here is a summary of the recommendations:



COVID-19

All children 6–23 months of age should get vaccinated. Children 2–17 years of age should get vaccinated if they are high-risk, live in congregate settings, have never been vaccinated, or have household contacts at risk for severe COVID-19. All other children not listed in these categories whose parent/guardian desires their protection from COVID-19 may also get vaccinated. Resources: AAP [Dosing Quick Reference Guide](#), 2026-2027 IDPH [Standing Order for Administering Vaccine](#)

Note: Adding COVID-19 vaccines to the VFC formulary has been **delayed by federal officials** until further notice, “leaving millions unable to access them as respiratory virus season begins,” according to the AAP.



Flu

All children aged ≥6 months without any medical contraindications should receive one dose. Children 6 months–9 years old who have not received at least two doses of the flu vaccine before July 1, 2026, should receive two doses separated by at least four weeks. No single flu vaccine product is preferred over another. Resources: [AAP Flu Toolkit](#)



RSV

All infants <8 months of age may receive one dose of clesrovimab or nirsevimab within one week of birth during the RSV season if the mother was unvaccinated, has an unknown vaccination status, or received Abrysvo less than 14 days before delivery. High-risk infants 8–19 months of age and entering their second season may receive one dose of nirsevimab if they meet one of the criteria (the AAP recently **expanded the criteria**). Resources: [AAP RSV Product Administration Guide](#), [ICAAP RSV Products Visual Guide](#)

New AAP article: [Lack of insurance coverage for RSV immunization in hospitals leaves newborns unprotected](#)

Vaccine Integrity Project Evidence Review

The Vaccine Integrity Project released its 2026–2027 respiratory season **evidence review** of COVID-19, RSV, and influenza immunizations. Highlights from the report include:

- COVID-19: Vaccination was associated with a ~76% reduction in COVID-19-related hospitalizations in children 9 months–4 years.
- RSV: Nirsevimab showed an 86%–97% reduction in the risk of RSV-related ER visits in infants and a 66%–93% reduced risk of hospitalization within 6 months after vaccination.
- Flu: Vaccination was 48% effective against flu-related hospitalization or ER visits in children aged 6 months–17 years with underlying conditions.

National Pediatric Vaccine Coverage

New **data** from the CDC show that during the 2025–2026 school year, kindergarten vaccine coverage rates decreased and exemption rates increased. The MMR vaccine coverage rate fell from 92.5% to 92.4%, and vaccine exemptions increased from 3.6% to 4.2%. According to a new **MMWR**, vaccination coverage among adolescents remained similar to 2024; however, HPV vaccination coverage has not increased since 2021 and continues to be lower than Tdap and MenACWY rates.



Navigating Vaccine Conversations with Spanish-speaking Families

The Frameworks Institute has created a guide to help communicate with Spanish-speaking families about the importance of childhood vaccinations. The guide suggests using a community-centered approach, framing vaccination as something that helps keep communities safe and healthy in a shared effort. Read the full guide [here](#).



Resources & Other Updates

- The ASTHO convened public health leaders to discuss preparations for the upcoming respiratory virus season on August 18. View the recording [here](#).
- The AAP hosted *Red Book Hot Topics Live Webinar: Preparing for the 2026-27 Respiratory Virus Season* on September 15. View the slides [here](#) and the recording [here](#).
- ICAAP and CDPH are hosting a webinar on Preparing for Respiratory Virus Season for Chicago clinicians on September 30. Register [here](#).
- IDPH is hosting a FAST PHACT webinar on the fall respiratory season on October 15. Register [here](#).

Upcoming ICAAP Events



October 14: Using Vaccines to Prepare for and Respond to Outbreaks

November 19: ICAAP Annual Education Conference

Register at [illinoisaaap.org/events](#)



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