

October 16, 2026

Jump to:

- Respiratory Virus Season Is Here!
- Measles Update
- U.S. Pediatricians Report Seeing Fewer Patients Due to Immigration Concerns
- Rotavirus Age Restrictions May Be Contributing to Delays
- Americans Continue to Trust Doctors
- New Research Suggests Vaccines Could Help Prevent Autism
- Resources & Other Updates
- Upcoming ICAAP Events

Respiratory Virus Season Is Here!

View the Illinois Seasonal Respiratory Virus Dashboard for respiratory virus surveillance data statewide.



COVID-19

- COVID-19 activity is decreasing. As of October 16th, the test positivity rate in Illinois is 1.8%.
- VFC ordering is available and I-CARE has been updated with the 2026–2027 COVID-19 vaccine formulations. 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines should no longer be administered. IDPH sent out a SIREN on updated codes.
- Updated Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for COVID vaccines have not yet been released. Clinicians can use a COVID-19 Immunization Fact Sheet from the AAP or FDA-approved patient labeling materials.
- Statewide 2026-2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order for Administering Vaccine: Effective September 10, 2026 to September 9, 2027.



Flu

- Flu activity is increasing early this season in the state and nationwide. As of October 16th, the test positivity rate in Illinois is 3.0%.
- The strain driving infections is H1N1pdm09. While covered by this season's vaccine, there is a mutation that may impact teens and young adults.
- A limited supply of VFC and AIP influenza vaccines is available in I-CARE; additional products will become available over the coming weeks. Use the Limited Quantity order type until routine ordering opens later in the season.



RSV

- As of October 16th, the test positivity rate in Illinois is 0.2%.
- Infant RSV immunization season began October 1. Please recommend RSV immunization to all eligible infants.
- All VFC RSV formulations are available in I-CARE, including maternal vaccination.



Measles Update

As of October 15, the CDC reported more than 4,400 cases and 42 outbreaks of measles throughout 47 jurisdictions. As of October 8, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reported 23 cases in 2026 so far in Illinois, with most cases among children ages 5-17. Please continue checking exposure locations and vaccination history for anyone who presents with measles symptoms.

A report published on September 22, 2026 in the JAMA Network, authored in part by staff from the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), evaluated the societal burden of the 2024 Chicago measles outbreak in terms of resources used and costs. It was estimated that the outbreak generated $8.7 million in total costs or $152,636 per measles case, including approximately $3.6 million in response costs and $4.4 million in direct medical costs. Impacted children missed a total of 17,113 school days.

U.S. Pediatricians Report Seeing Fewer Patients Due to Immigration Concerns

The AAP conducted a national survey of pediatricians, many of whom reported that immigrant families were avoiding or delaying medical care for their children. Notably, many pediatricians were uncertain about whether these changes in care-seeking behavior were related to immigration enforcement concerns, suggesting that the scope of the issue may be underestimated. These findings are consistent with a 2025 survey conducted by The New York Times and the Kaiser Family Foundation and a Contemporary Pediatrics article titled *Pediatric no-shows rose most among Latine patients after ICE operation* in Chicago.

Check out resources to support immigrant families on ICAAP's Immigration webpage.



Rotavirus Age Restrictions May Be Contributing to Delays

Age restrictions for the administration of the rotavirus vaccine may be limiting immunization rates according to an article published in the Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. While rotavirus vaccines can be co-administered with DTaP vaccines, rotavirus vaccine has age restrictions for the first and last dose. It was found that when patients delayed vaccination with other routine vaccines, such as DTaP, to 15 weeks or later, the rate of rotavirus vaccine non-initiation was significantly higher than when administered before the 15 weeks (62.9% vs. 1.3%). Clinicians should continue to remind families about the importance of timely vaccinations.



Americans Continue to Trust Doctors

According to two new surveys, Americans continue to trust doctors and the AAP more than the federal government when it comes to health guidance. An overwhelming number of respondents have more confidence in the AAP than the federal government when it comes to childhood vaccine recommendations, according to results of a bipartisan survey conducted by the Axios/Ipsos American Health Index. Results from an Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) survey show that Americans largely continue to have high confidence in their doctors' and healthcare providers' medical opinions (87%), while trust in federal health agencies declines.

New Research Suggests Vaccines Could Help Prevent Autism



TORCH (toxoplasmosis, syphilis, rubella, cytomegalovirus, or herpes simplex) infections are congenital infections that can be passed from mother to fetus. A study published in JAMA Pediatrics found children infected by a TORCH infection had a higher risk of autism and intellectual disability than uninfected siblings. An article about the study states that "The link between rubella and autism is not new. Autistic features were first described in children with congenital rubella. Later studies found that 12% to 15% of children with congenital rubella syndrome met the criteria for autism."



Resources & Other Updates

- Immunize.org launches new Clinical Resources topic page with a compilation of resources for seasonal vaccines.
- Vaccinate Your Family launches Respiratory Season Toolkit in English and Spanish.
- Join the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases for a webinar on *Building Trust to Increase Immunization Uptake* Tuesday, October 27, from 1-2:15PM CST.
- The American Lung Association will host a *Preparing for the Respiratory Virus Season Webinar* Tuesday, October 27, from 12-1PM CST.

Upcoming ICAAP Events



November 19: ICAAP Annual Education Conference

Register at illinoisaap.org/events

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe