

Childhood Vaccination: Influenza and Beyond

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The American Academy of Pediatrics

We're 67,000 pediatricians committed to the optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.



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AAP Has Been Making Vaccine Recommendations for Children since 1935



The first vaccine recommendations for children

The AAP made the first vaccine recommendations for children in the late 1930s. This was years before other groups of scientists, health professionals or the government published their vaccine recommendations.

The AAP worked closely with the ACIP, and in 1995 this resulted in the creation of a **single vaccine schedule**. The schedule was easy to understand, and it included the immunizations children needed.



AAP 2026 Vaccine Recommendations

Routine recommendations against 18 diseases



Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger

Vaccines and Other Immunizing Agents in the Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule*	Abbreviation(s)	Trade name(s)
Respiratory syncytial virus monoclonal antibody	RSV mAb	Beigene Eprexone
Vaccine	Abbreviation(s)	Trade name(s)
COVID-19 vaccine	1vCOV-mRNA	Comirnaty mPaxvaxide
Dengue vaccine	1vCOV-IPS	Opdivia
Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine	DTaP	Daptacel Infanrix
Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine	Hib (PRP-T)	ActHib
Hib (PRP-OMP)	Hib (PRP-OMP)	ProquadHib
Hepatitis A vaccine	HeptA	Heptavax
Hepatitis B vaccine	HeptB	Engerix-B Recombivax HB
Human papillomavirus vaccine	HPV	Cervarix 9 Cervix
Influenza vaccine (inactivated, egg-based)	IVFI	Fluzone
Influenza vaccine (inactivated, cell-culture)	IVFI	Fluzone
Influenza vaccine (recombinant)	IVFI	Fluzone
Influenza vaccine (live, attenuated)	LAZI	Fluzone Mistard
Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine	MMR	ProQuad
Meningococcal serogroup A, C, W, Y vaccine	MenACWY-DM	MenQuadfi
Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine	MenB-4C MenB-PP3p	Envenax Trumenb
Meningococcal serogroup A, B, C, W, Y vaccine	MenACWY-PP3p MenACWY-PP3p/MSB-4C	Menveo MenQuadfi
Polio vaccine	IPV	Poliovax
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	PCV13	Prevenar
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine	PPV23	Prevnar 23
Poliovirus vaccine (inactivated)	IPV	Poliovax
Respiratory syncytial virus vaccine	RSV	Abrysvo
Rotavirus vaccine	RV1	RotaShield
RV2	Rotarix	
Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine	Tdap	Adacel Boostrix
Tetanus and diphtheria vaccine	Td	Boostrix Serozax
Varicella vaccine	VAR	Varivax

United States 2026

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Endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), Council of Medical Society Societies (CMSS), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), National Medical Association (NMA), Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA), and Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM). (Endorsements)

How to use the child and adolescent immunization schedule

- Determine recommended vaccine by age (Table 1)
- Determine recommended interval for catch-up vaccination (Table 2)
- Assess need for additional recommended vaccines by medical condition or other indication (Table 3)
- Review vaccine types, frequencies, intervals, and considerations for special situations (Appendix)
- Review contraindications and precautions for vaccine types (Appendix)
- Review new or updated American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance (Addendum)

Report

- Suspected cases of reportable vaccine-preventable diseases or outbreaks to your state or local health department
- Clinically significant adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at vaers.hhs.gov (Accessed December 2, 2025) or 800-822-7967
- For RSV-mAb products, clinically significant adverse events to MedWatch Adverse Event Report Program at www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/index.cfm (Accessed December 2, 2025). If co-administered with other products, then report to VAERS

Questions or comments

Submit a question or comment to www.aap.org/en/forms/immunization-schedule-questions

Helpful information

- Best practices for immunization (including contraindications and precautions): www.aap.org/immunization and www.immunize.org
- Red Book: 2024–2027 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases (33rd Edition): www.aapbook.org
- Vaccine information statements: www.immunize.org/vaccines/vsi/about-vsi
- Shared decision making: <https://www.aap.org/en/practice-management/providing-patient-and-family-centered-care/hard-decision-making>

For the most up-to-date version, visit [AAP.org/immunization-schedule](https://www.aap.org/immunization-schedule)



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Updated January 26, 2026

230+ Organizations Voice Support for AAP's Vaccine Recommendations



WE SUPPORT AAP'S VACCINE SCHEDULE

Vaccines keep children healthy and thriving.

We join more than 200 organizations to show our support for vaccine recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics.



WE FOLLOW AAP'S VACCINE SCHEDULE



WE SUPPORT AAP'S VACCINE SCHEDULE

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Managing Vaccine Preventable Diseases

A deadly bacterial disease is returning, doctors warn, as vaccination rates fall

Hib once killed 1,000 children a year, permanently disabling many more. Doctors who've never seen the disease say the comeback is changing the way they practice medicine.

US nears 1,700 measles cases, with 73 new infections in Utah

Jim Wappes, April 3, 2026
Topics: [Measles](#)

Unvaccinated kids hit hard with flu as pediatric deaths rise to 52

The vast majority of children who have died of flu so far this season did not get the flu shot, the CDC reported Friday.

Medical schools must prepare tomorrow's doctors for yesterday's diseases

The return of vaccine-preventable illnesses means updating education

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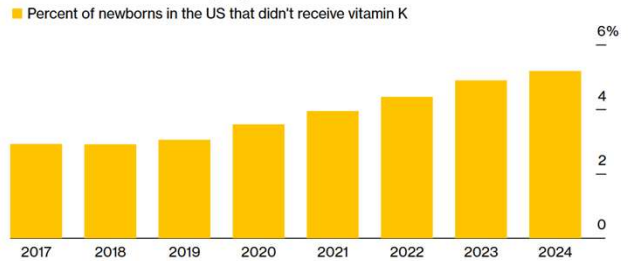
Young children see drop in rates for 5 vaccines including flu, HepB birth dose

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Collateral Impacts Beyond Vaccines

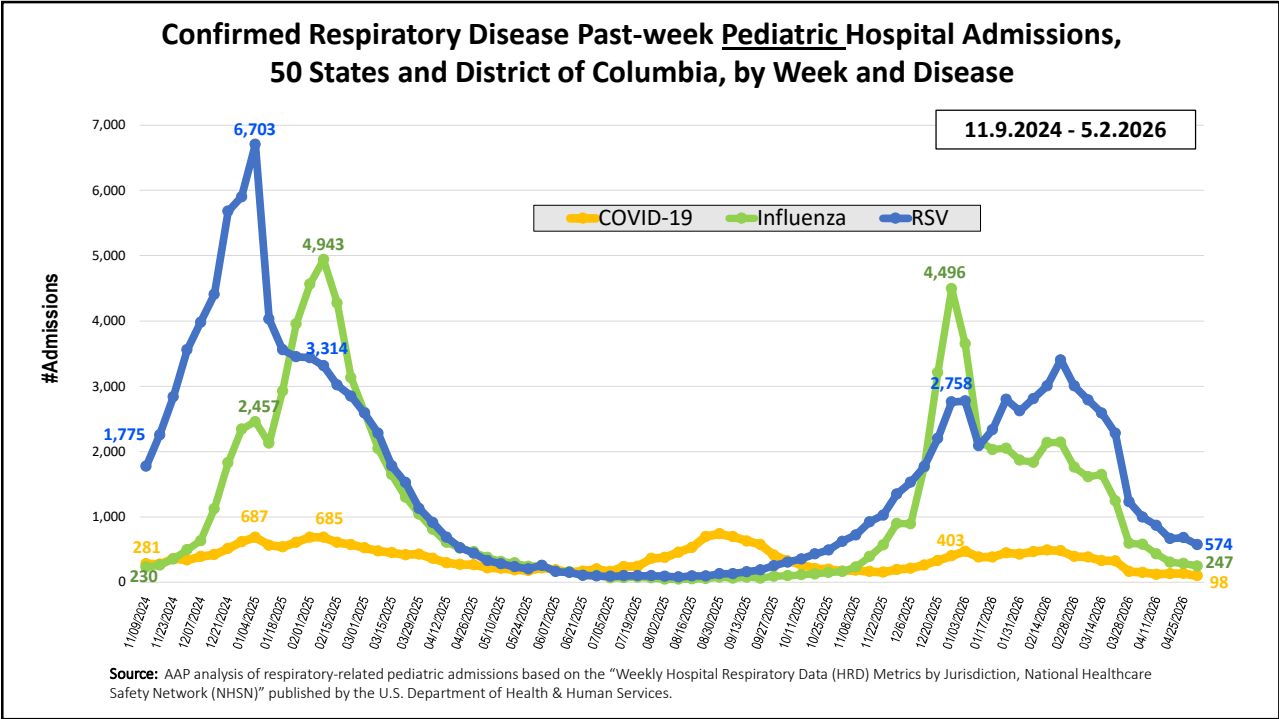


More Parents Are Saying No to Vitamin K Shots for Kids



Source: Journal of the American Medical Association
Note: Researchers used anonymous US-based electronic health record database

Influenza Recommendations



Number of Pediatric Hospital Admissions by Respiratory Disease and Age Group

**Current Viral Season
 September 28, 2025 – May 2, 2026**

Respiratory Disease	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-17	<i>Total Pediatric</i>
COVID-19	6,357	2,484	8,841
Influenza	18,380	21,312	39,692
RSV	46,366	5,651	52,017

Source: AAP analysis of respiratory-related pediatric admissions based on the “Weekly Hospital Respiratory Data (HRD) Metrics by Jurisdiction, National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)” published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

**Number of Pediatric Hospital Admissions
 by Respiratory Disease and Age Group
 November 3, 2024 – May 2, 2026**

Respiratory Disease	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-17	Total Pediatric
COVID-19	20,029	8,310	28,339
Influenza	42,018	47,213	89,231
RSV	113,273	14,800	128,073

Source: AAP analysis of respiratory-related pediatric admissions based on the “Weekly Hospital Respiratory Data (HRD) Metrics by Jurisdiction, National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)” published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

AAP’s Immunization Recommendation Process

Based on evidence:

- vaccine safety
- epidemiology of diseases in the United States
- impact of the diseases
- prevention of disease complications

Collaboration with external entities

- Professional Societies
- Public Health Entities and Experts
- Vaccine Integrity Project
- Payers
- Manufacturers
- Community Coalitions and Advocates



2026 Roadmap:

- Influenza
- Covid
- RSV
- HPV

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Kristina A Bryant, MD, FAAP
 Red Book Online Team Lead, AAP
 Committee on Infectious Diseases
 Professor of Pediatrics, University of
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Evidence Review **COVID Process** **Publication Process**

RED BOOK
 2022-2024
 Report of the Committee
 on Infectious Diseases
 22nd Edition

PEDIATRICS
 Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics

AAP News
 1 Year Subscription

Recommended Immunizations for Adolescents 7 Through 18 Years Old

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AAP's Influenza Vaccine Recommendations for 2025-2026

- AAP recommends annual influenza **vaccination for all children 6 months and older**
- **Any vaccine** appropriate for age and health status can be used
 - The AAP **continues to support** World Health Organization recs regarding multiuse vials in the global vaccine supply (no thimerosal restrictions)
- The **number of influenza vaccine doses** recommended for children **unchanged** in the 2025–2026 influenza season
 - Children < 9 years of age who have not received at least 2 lifetime doses prior to current season require 2 doses of influenza vaccine this season given at least 4 weeks apart

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What was new for 2025-2026?

- Recommendations for influenza **treatment and prophylaxis** simplified
- FluMist, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), available for **administration in the home** by a caregiver **for eligible children ≥ 2 years** of age
 - Prescription by patient's physician not required; after eligibility is determined, a prescription is generated through an online pharmacy service.
 - Shipped to patient home using validated and approved cold-chain procedures and packaging.
 - Not currently covered as part of Vaccines for Children.
 - Caregivers receive text reminders to confirm administration and online pharmacist documents in IIS and reports dose to the patient's medical home if pediatrician's name provided.

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Timing of Influenza Vaccination

- Offer influenza vaccine **as soon as it becomes available**, especially to children who require 2 doses
- Administer recommended dose(s) ideally **by the end of October**
- **Continue offering** vaccine to unvaccinated children and families throughout the season

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AAP Influenza Resources

- [Red Book Online Influenza Chapter](#)
- [Influenza Vaccine Communication Toolkit](#)
- [Planning an Influenza Vaccination Clinic](#)
- [Influenza Vaccine Implementation FAQs](#)
- [Influenza Resources for Families](#)
- [Immunization Resources](#)
- [Promoting Vaccine Confidence](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Resources](#)



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Communication and Engagement

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Vaccine Confidence Toolkit

<https://www.aap.org/en/newsroom/campaigns-and-toolkits/immunizations/>

"Together" PSA

Select Language Select Length

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FACT CHECKED

THIMEROSAL

Several valid scientific studies have shown thimerosal in vaccines is safe and not neurotoxic.

This type of intentionally misleading information directly causes vaccine hesitancy and puts children at risk for dangerous, even deadly diseases.

Fact Check Thimerosal

Select Platform Select Slide

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Vaccine Schedules FAQ Carousel (Spanish)

Select Platform Select Slide

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Vaccine Schedules FAQ Carousel (English)

Facebook and Instagram Slide 1

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HOW TO SPOT MISLEADING HEALTH CLAIMS

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES NAVIGATING CONFUSING HEALTH INFORMATION

You're scrolling through your phone and a social media post catches your eye. A childhood vaccine is the cause of a chronic condition. A common medication is secretly dangerous. Thousands of shares. A doctor quoted. A link to a "study." Your stomach drops. **That feeling is normal. In fact, people who spread false health claims count on it.**

WHY THIS MATTERS

Misleading claims—about nutrition, medications, mental health, vaccines, and more—are everywhere! Once you recognize the patterns, you can confidently evaluate any claim.

The good news?
The tricks only work if you don't see them coming!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Talk with your child's healthcare team. If something online concerns you, bring it up. They'd rather have a conversation than have you quietly worry.

Ask questions. Your child's healthcare team genuinely wants to discuss them with you. You will not be judged or labeled as anti-science.

Pause before you share online or with other people. Take 30 seconds to run through the checklist on the next page. You could be the person who stops a false claim from reaching hundreds more families.

TRUSTED SOURCES

Your child's healthcare team is always the best first call for questions about your child. For everything else, here are some trusted sources:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP)	HealthyChildren.org
CENTER FOR UNBIASED SCIENCE AND HEALTH	UnbiasedScience.org

A CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING HEALTH CLAIMS

The next time a health claim gives you that pit-in-your-stomach feeling, run through these questions. Each one catches a common manipulation tactic.

IS THIS CLAIM TRYING TO SCARE OR INFORM ME?

Be skeptical of content that makes you feel intense emotions like anger or hope. Health information can be emotional, but should offer resources and next steps, not panic.

! Watch for: Emotional manipulation

IS IT TRENDING FOR EVERYONE, OR JUST ON MY FEEDS?

Your social media feed amplifies content you've already engaged with. See if major medical organizations and mainstream news are covering it too.

! Watch for: Echo chambers

AM I BEING OFFERED A SIMPLE FIX TO A COMPLEX PROBLEM?

Most health conditions have multiple causes. If someone blames a single cause or offers a magic solution, be skeptical.

! Watch for: Oversimplification

DOES IT USE UNCERTAINTY TO DISMISS THE SCIENCE?

Science is honest about what it doesn't know, and that's a strength, not a weakness. If someone frames this as conspiracy, they're manipulating you.

! Watch for: Exploiting nuance

DOES IT CLAIM TIMING PROVES CAUSATION?

When an event and diagnosis happen close together, it's easy to assume that one caused the other, but timing alone isn't evidence.

! Watch for: Coincidental timing

IS SOMEONE PROFITING FROM THIS CLAIM?

Check for financial or personal incentives. These may include: supplement ads, "alternative" product links, or political connections.


! Watch for: Conflicts of interest

WHERE DID THIS INFORMATION COME FROM?

Is it backed by a medical organization, research study, or specialist? A single outlier opinion doesn't change what the broader medical community has found.


COULD THIS HAVE BEEN GENERATED BY AI?

AI tools can make realistic articles, images, and fake expert quotes. If writing feels generic, the "expert" doesn't check out, or the source is unfamiliar, verify before trusting it.



Thank You!

Email: nmohanty@aap.org
aap.org/immunization



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