


IMMUNIZATION Update

March 13 | 981 words | 4 -minute read

Immunization Update

March 13 | Issue: 140

 stronger immunities.
stronger communities.

Question of the week

What does the latest CDC report say about COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness, and who should get vaccinated?



A new CDC [report](#) finds that the updated (2023-2024) COVID-19 vaccines cut the risk of visiting the emergency department, urgent care or being hospitalized with COVID-19 in half for most people.

It is recommended that everyone 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine, especially people 65 years or older and people with medical conditions that make them more likely to get very sick with COVID-19, such as weakened immune systems.

Learn more about how to [stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.

CDC updates and simplifies respiratory virus recommendations

Last week, CDC released [updated recommendations](#) for protecting people and their communities from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

The new guidance brings a unified approach to addressing risks from a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, such as COVID-19, flu and RSV, which can cause significant health impacts and strain on hospitals and healthcare workers.

CDC is making updates to the recommendations now because the U.S. is seeing [far fewer hospitalizations and deaths](#) associated with COVID-19 and because we have more tools than ever to combat flu, COVID-19 and RSV.

CDC also provides active recommendations on [core prevention steps](#) and strategies and [additional considerations](#) for people at higher risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses, including older adults, young children, people with compromised immune systems, people with disabilities and pregnant people.



Update on Pfizer Diluent



Last month, Pfizer changed the diluent pack size associated with CDC orders of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (2023-2024 Formula) for ages 6 months through 4 years ([59267-4315-02; COVID-19 (Pfizer); (6m-4y); MDV3;10-pk]).

Previously, this presentation's vaccine orders were supplied with diluent in a 10-pack. Now, Pfizer will supply diluent in a 25-pack. Diluent will be provided in these quantities to ensure providers receive sufficient diluent to administer all doses of

vaccines ordered. As a reminder, one vial of diluent is required to reconstitute one multi-dose vial of vaccine for individuals ages 6 months through 4 years.

View the full memo and the number of diluent vials providers will receive based on order sizes [here](#).

CDC study shows the effectiveness of RSV immunization for infants

New [CDC MMWR data](#) released on March 7 reveals that nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody, is highly effective in preventing infants from RSV-related hospitalizations, the leading cause of infant hospitalizations in the U.S.

These findings support CDC's recommendation to administer nirsevimab to infants during their first RSV season if the mother didn't receive the maternal RSV vaccine during pregnancy.



The study, based on early data from [CDC's New Vaccine Surveillance Network](#), shows nirsevimab was 90% effective in preventing RSV-associated hospitalizations in infants during their first season of potential exposure.

Healthcare providers are urged to recommend nirsevimab for infants under 8 months entering their first RSV season if the maternal RSV vaccine wasn't administered or to offer maternal RSV vaccination during weeks 32 to 36 of pregnancy if applicable.

CDC continues to monitor the safety and effectiveness of nirsevimab and maternal RSV vaccines.

Webinar: Navigating the impact of COVID-19, influenza and RSV on agricultural workers



On **March 19 at noon**, AgriSafe Network is hosting a free webinar for people who work in agriculture about the impacts of common respiratory viruses.

Agricultural workers face unique risks due to exposure to viruses like COVID-19, influenza and RSV. Understanding the specific causes, symptoms, severity and prevention methods for each virus is crucial to protecting the health of agricultural workers.

This webinar will explore the risks agricultural workers face, preventative measures and strategies to maintain personal and community health. We encourage providers to engage with their patients who work in agriculture and share this learning opportunity with them.

Intended Audience: Agricultural workers and producers.

Objectives: At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify specific symptoms of COVID-19, influenza and RSV
2. Review current testing and treatment options for COVID-19, influenza and RSV
3. Provide resources on workplace safety for agricultural employers and employees

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

ICYMI: The latest on the measles outbreak and how it compares to previous outbreaks

Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000, but sporadic outbreaks have occurred since. In 2019, there were approximately 1,274 confirmed cases in 31 states, primarily linked to travelers from countries with outbreaks. [As of February 29, 2024, a total of 41 measles cases were reported by 16 jurisdictions:](#) Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington.



- In Florida, a localized outbreak at Manatee Bay Elementary in Weston has reported seven cases, while Central Florida had one travel-related case.
- The Philadelphia Department of Public Health recently announced the end of a measles outbreak that affected the city between December 2023 and January 2024, with nine

confirmed cases overall.

Rising measles cases have also been reported globally, emphasizing the need for sustained efforts to prevent further outbreaks.

Measles treatment:

There is no specific treatment for measles, but medications can help manage symptoms and complications. Children with severe cases may be given regular doses of vitamin A to support recovery.

Can you get measles even if you are vaccinated?

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is highly effective. Two doses are recommended for children, with the first dose between 12 and 15 months and the second dose between 4 and 6 years. While the vaccine is about 97% effective, a small number of people may still get measles after vaccination. However, they typically experience a milder illness.

The significance of measles as a public health concern underscores the importance of vaccination and continued vigilance in disease prevention.

For more information

About measles: [Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#)

Measles FAQ: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

For healthcare providers: [For Healthcare Professionals - Diagnosing and Treating Measles | CDC](#)



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