

IMMUNIZATION Update

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FDA approves Merck's pneumococcal vaccine for adults



Merck announced it has received FDA approval for its next-generation vaccine, Capvaxive. This vaccine targets 21 serotypes of the bacteria and protects adults against pneumococcal disease, which can cause infections like pneumonia.

Capvaxive is likely to be available by late summer, pending CDC advisers' recommendations, and at no cost if it receives routine CDC endorsement.

Pneumococcal disease spreads through respiratory secretions and poses a higher risk to young children and older adults. Merck aims to compete with Pfizer's Prevnar 20, which also protects against multiple serotypes and is approved for both adults and children. Merck's existing pneumococcal vaccines include Vaxneuvance and Pneumovax 23.

Read the full story [here](#).

Study suggests HPV vaccine prevents head and neck cancer in men

Experts are saying the HPV vaccine not only prevents cervical cancer but also significantly benefits men.

The vaccine, which has reduced cervical cancer rates in women by 90%, now shows promise in [reducing the risk of head and neck cancers in men](#) by more than half. Analysis of data from over 5 million U.S. patients revealed 2.8 cases of head and neck cancers per 100,000 vaccinated men compared to 6.3 cases per 100,000 unvaccinated men.



The study, presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference by Jefferson DeKloe, a research fellow in the department of otolaryngology at Thomas Jefferson University, indicates the vaccine reduces overall HPV-related cancers and highlights the need for better public health messaging to promote vaccination among boys.

Schools have offered the vaccine to boys since 2019, but uptake rates lag behind girls despite the vaccine's clear benefits. The vaccine delivers a "double whammy" effect, preventing the virus's spread and reducing HPV-related cancers in both genders. The study underscores the importance of HPV vaccination in reducing cancer rates.

Read the full article [here](#).

FDA approves first RSV vaccine for use in at-risk adults over 50



The FDA has approved the expansion of [GSK's Arexvy RSV vaccine](#) for use in at-risk adults over 50, making it the first RSV vaccine approved for adults in this age group. The vaccine now needs approval from CDC's immunization advisory committee. CDC will also consider whether booster shots will be recommended.

The vaccine is important for people with underlying medical conditions, as RSV can have severe consequences. The expansion request followed trials showing a strong

immune response and tolerability in adults in their 50s.

Arexvy joins Moderna and Pfizer's vaccines, which are approved for adults over 60. GSK is seeking similar approvals in Europe, Japan and other regions. Experts emphasize the vaccine's importance for at-risk adults, regardless of age.

Accessing your immunization records has never been easier

If your physical immunization record is lost, destroyed or simply not with you, we have you covered!

[MyIR Mobile](#) is a web portal that allows you to review your immunization history, receive reminders for future immunizations and even print your own official record. This service is

free, simple and secure, providing peace of mind when it comes to managing your immunization records.

With hurricane season underway, now is a great time to register and become familiar with MyIR Mobile, saving you time and stress during emergencies.

Be prepared and stay safe!



ICYMI: Hurricane season 2024: Plan now and be prepared



Hurricane season is here. Take action now to update your vaccine emergency storage plan for all vaccines in your inventory. In accordance with the *Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider Agreement Emergency Vaccine Management Plan*, all VFC providers are required to have an emergency vaccine storage plan. It is imperative providers strive to prevent needless and unsustainable loss of vaccine by detailing a plan for emergency vaccine storage in the event of a power failure. Following these plans during a hurricane or other natural

disaster can help to save millions of dollars of vaccines.

The *Immunization Policies and Procedures Manual* (revised September 2023) provides step-by-step guidance to assist with your planning. [Click here](#) to review the manual, making note of the following sections: 1.) "Procedures for Vaccine Protection and Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness" (pages 188-192); 2.) "Policy on Transporting Vaccine" (pages 45-47); and 3.) "Policy on Power Outage" (pages 41-42).

Share this memorandum with your staff and maintain for future reference. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact your [regional immunization consultant](#).

Your Family

In addition to preparing your organization for an emergency, planning for your family is equally important. Your family may not be together when a disaster occurs, so it is important to know how you will contact one another and reconnect if separated. Plan in advance to ensure all household members, including children and those with disabilities, know how to reach each other and where to meet during an emergency, as communication networks and electricity might be disrupted.

Visit the resources below to help you create an emergency plan for your family:

- <https://getagameplan.org>
- www.ready.gov/plan
- <https://bit.ly/familycommsplan>

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. Here are some recommended items to include in a basic emergency supply kit:

- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Battery-operated radio
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Medication (three-day supply)
- Toiletries
- Copies of important documents
- Cash
- Full tanks of gas in your vehicles

This list serves as a foundational guide you can tailor to your family's specific needs, including those of pets.

Here's a pro tip: Maintain at least two emergency supply kits — a comprehensive one at home and a compact version for your workplace or vehicle.

An advertisement banner with a background image of a smiling man holding a young girl. The text "Don't lose Medicaid coverage" is in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below it, "Update your contact info" is in white text on a teal rectangular background. At the bottom left, the website "www.healthy.la.gov" is written in blue. At the bottom right is the Louisiana Department of Health Medicaid logo, which includes a stylized cross icon and the text "LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Medicaid".

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