


## IMMUNIZATION Update

March 20 | 700 words | 3 - minute read

### Immunization Update

March 20 | Issue: 141

 stronger immunities.  
stronger communities.

## Question of the week

### What is the recommended respiratory virus guidance?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released **updated guidance** on preventing respiratory viruses, offering valuable tips to safeguard against these everyday ailments and promoting overall health and well-being.

The CDC emphasizes the importance of simple yet effective preventative measures with the ongoing threat of respiratory infections. These include:

- Getting vaccinated,
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water,
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow and
- Avoiding close contact with sick individuals.

Additionally, ensuring proper ventilation indoors and wearing masks in crowded or enclosed settings can further reduce the risk of respiratory virus transmission.

[Download a respiratory virus guidance infographic here.](#)

## Possible tetanus shot shortage this coming summer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns of impending shortages in tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine supply following MassBiologics' discontinuation of production. This leaves only one manufacturer, Sanofi, to augment the dwindling U.S. stock.

With Grifols, the sole distributor for MassBiologics' shot, not expecting availability until June, temporary ordering controls are in place to manage the gap in supply.

Doctors are advised to administer the broader Tdap vaccine whenever possible, which not only covers tetanus and diphtheria but also pertussis. While tetanus shots are typically given every 10 years, the Tdap vaccine is an acceptable alternative, particularly in wound management scenarios



There are no supply constraints for Tdap vaccines, as two manufacturers remain licensed.

[Read more about the constrained U.S.Td supply.](#)

## March is National Women's History Month



As we celebrate National Women's History Month this March, it's a fitting time to recognize the remarkable contributions of women in various fields, including healthcare. Throughout history, women have played pivotal roles in advancing public health, particularly in the field of vaccinations and immunizations.

From pioneering scientists like [Marie Curie](#) to the key scientist behind the COVID-19 vaccine, [Kizzmekia Corbett](#), women have been instrumental in developing, promoting

and administering vaccines that protect against deadly diseases. Their dedication, expertise and tireless efforts have saved countless lives and shaped the course of public health initiatives worldwide.

Join us in expressing gratitude for their invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of communities everywhere.

## Increase in global and domestic measles cases and outbreaks: CDC urges providers to ensure children are current on MMR vaccination

This week, the CDC issued a Health Advisory to inform clinicians and public health officials of an increase in global and U.S. measles cases and to provide guidance on measles prevention for all international travelers aged  $\geq 6$  months and all children aged  $\geq 12$  months who do not plan to travel internationally.

Measles (rubeola) is highly contagious; one person infected with measles can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals with whom they come in close contact.

By the numbers:

- From January 1 to March 14, 2024, CDC has been notified of 58 confirmed U.S. measles cases across 17 jurisdictions, including seven outbreaks in seven jurisdictions compared to 58 total cases and four outbreaks reported the entire year in 2023.
- Among the 58 cases reported in 2024, 54 (93%) were linked to international travel. Most cases reported in 2024 have been among children 12 months and older who had not received the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.



Many countries, including travel destinations such as Austria, the Philippines, Romania, and the United Kingdom, are experiencing measles outbreaks. To prevent measles infection and reduce the risk of community transmission from importation, all U.S. residents traveling internationally, regardless of destination, should be current on their MMR vaccinations.

Healthcare providers should ensure that children are current on routine immunizations, including MMR. Given the currently high population immunity against measles in most U.S. communities, the risk of widescale spread is low. However, pockets of low coverage leave some communities at higher risk for outbreaks.

## ICYMI: 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.

---



**Don't lose Medicaid coverage**  
**Update your contact info**

[www.healthy.la.gov](http://www.healthy.la.gov) | 

---

Was IZ Newsletter Issue 141 informative?

Yes

No

LA | 1450 Poydras Street, Suite 1938, New Orleans, LA 70112

[Unsubscribe rafe.hewett@la.gov](mailto:rafe.hewett@la.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [immunizations@lagov.ccsend.com](mailto:immunizations@lagov.ccsend.com)