



AAP IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER



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Links to AAP Resources:

- [AAP Immunization Web site](#)
- [AAP Bookstore](#)
- [Red Book Online](#)

The Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP) is a cooperative agreement between the CDC and AAP. (Cooperative Agreement: NU38OT000282-01-01)



Updates and Alerts

AAP Releases Influenza Recommendations for 2021-'22 Season

The AAP [Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2021-2022](#), from the Committee on Infectious Diseases and [companion technical report](#) were released September 7, 2021. These policy documents emphasize the importance of flu vaccination during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which is expected to continue during flu season. Influenza vaccination is particularly important to protect vulnerable populations and reduce the burden of respiratory illnesses during circulation of SARS-CoV-2.

Coadministration with COVID-19 vaccine

According to the AAP, influenza vaccine can be administered simultaneously or within any time before or after administration of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines. Reactions may occur at the injection site with COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine (eg, pain, redness). Best practices for multiple injections include labeling each syringe; separating injection sites by at least 1 inch, if possible, to reduce the chance of local reactions overlapping; and administering COVID-19 vaccine and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a reaction in separate limbs, if possible. See [here](#) for more information on proper vaccine administration. Visit the [CDC Resource Library](#) for vaccine administration job aids and consult current guidance on coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with influenza vaccines from the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the [AAP](#).

Additional updates for 2021-'22

Composition: This will be the first influenza season for which all pediatric and adult influenza vaccines are quadrivalent. Viral strain components influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and A(H3N2) components are new, while influenza B components are unchanged from last season.

Vaccine formulations: Formulations for children 6 through 35 months of age are unchanged from last season. Afluria Quadrivalent is the only vaccine for children in this age group available in a prefilled syringe with a dosing volume of 0.25 mL. A 0.25-mL dose of Fluzone Quadrivalent still is an approved option if drawn from a multidose vial.

The **age indication** for the cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine, Flucelvax Quadrivalent, has been extended to ages 2 years and older (previously 4 years and older).

Doses, timing: All influenza immunization doses should be administered by the end of October, if possible. As in previous years, children ages 6 months through 8 years who are receiving flu vaccine for the first time, who have had only one dose ever prior to July 1, 2021, or whose vaccination status is unknown, should receive two doses, four weeks apart. *Data available to date on waning immunity do not support delaying vaccination in children.*

Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine, Comirnaty, Receives full FDA approval

On August 23rd, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [approved licensure for the first COVID-19 vaccine, Comirnaty](#) – the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine – for those age 16 years and older. The vaccine is also available under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for those age 12-15 years. The vaccine is recommended for anyone age 12+ who does not have contraindications to the vaccine.

Despite full licensure, the AAP and FDA are [recommending against the off-label use of Comirnaty](#) in children ages 11 years and younger, while clinical trials wrap up, data is reviewed, and dosage recommendations are finalized (login may be required). To read more on AAP policy and resources on COVID-19 vaccine, see the Special Section on page 5 of this newsletter.

Updates Cont'd

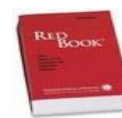
- **Communicating About Vaccination in the United States: A Strategic Brief**
The AAP has partnered with The Frameworks Institute to conduct formative research and test a message framework for childhood and adolescent immunizations to reach the goal of increasing vaccine uptake. A [recently published report](#) summarizing the latest phase of the research provides preliminary insights on expert and public thinking and guidance on how to talk about the importance of vaccines in general—and childhood vaccination specifically. It builds on the premise that scientific information, access to health care, and structural discrimination and racism in and beyond the health care system shape attitudes and behaviors around vaccines. This report represents the first stage of a larger research project that seeks to contribute to building public understanding of vaccines and to increasing support for structural and policy changes that will improve vaccination access and uptake.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- **AAP National Conference and Exhibition**
October 8-12, 2021
Virtual
Join the AAP for the 2021 [National Conference & Exhibition](#) which will include world-class education, an exhibit hall, special events, and many other unique experiences. Attendees will participate in the full conference online with live and on-demand sessions.
- **Partners in Vaccination: A collaboration between the AAP, AIM and NACCHO**
October 13, 2021
Virtual, 11:30am-1:00pm
Join **Partners in Vaccination: A collaboration between the AAP, the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM), and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)** in a 90-minute virtual panel discussion among representatives of each organization. This discussion will lead to a shared understanding of the role each plays in routine childhood immunization and pathways to collaboration at the local and/or state levels. A panelist from each will provide a brief overview of their organization; briefly describe the current environment for providing routine childhood immunizations; and share an illustrative example of a successful collaboration among them. Participants will come away with ideas on how to leverage their organization's role and strengths. Register [here](#).
- **CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Meeting**
October 20-21, 2021
Virtual
The ACIP generally holds regular meetings each year at the CDC to review scientific data and vote on vaccine recommendations. Meetings are available online via live webcast. More information on ACIP meetings is available [here](#).
- **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) 2021 Clinical Vaccinology Course**
November 15-17, 2021
Virtual
This comprehensive virtual course focuses on new developments and issues related to the use of vaccines. Expert faculty provide updated recommendations for vaccinations across the lifespan, and innovative and practical strategies for ensuring timely and appropriate immunization.

Resources

- **AAP Influenza Resources for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs**
See Additional Resources on page 6.
- **Immunization Action Coalition – Vaccine Support Buttons, Stickers, etc.**
The Immunization Action Coalition is [offering free buttons and stickers](#) to organizations offering COVID-19 vaccine, and for a reasonable cost, they offer [stickers and buttons for influenza](#) as well.



Red Book Online

RBO Influenza Resource Page

The *Red Book Online* Influenza Resource Page was just updated to include the most recent influenza information from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the newly released [AAP policy statement](#) and [technical report](#) "Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2021-2022."

The AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases compiled this comprehensive list of influenza resources to serve as a centralized point of reference for vaccine guidance, prevention, treatment, payment, policies, news, and other information pertaining to influenza for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

This resource is updated frequently as needed, including pertinent information related to seasonal, H1N1, avian, and pandemic influenza.

Featured Research Findings

Survey: HPV vaccination rates continue to improve

Reprinted with permission of AAP News, Sept. 2, 2021

<https://www.aapublications.org/news/2021/09/02/teen-hpv-vaccine-rates-090221> (Login Required)

Melissa Jenco, News Content Editor

Nearly 59% of teens are up to date on HPV vaccination, a figure that rises each year but hasn't caught up to the rate of other vaccines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the results from the 2020 National Immunization Survey-Teen on Thursday in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, providing data on just over 20,000 teenagers.

Researchers found about 75.1% of teens had received at least one dose of HPV vaccine, up from 71.5% in 2020. About 58.6% were up to date on HPV vaccination, up from 54.2%.

"Improvements in HPV vaccination coverage are crucial to lowering rates of HPV-attributable cancers in the United States," authors wrote.

Females continue to have higher rates of HPV vaccination. About 61.4% of females had completed the series compared to 56% of males. Rates were higher for teens in metropolitan areas than for those outside these areas.

The 2020 coverage rates for other vaccines were:

- 92.6% for at least three doses of hepatitis B,
- 92.4% for at least two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella,
- 91.9% for at least two doses of varicella among those with no history of the disease,
- 90.1% for at least one dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis,
- 89.3% for at least one dose of meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY),
- 82.1% for at least two doses of hepatitis A,
- 54.4% for at least two doses of MenACWY and
- 28.4% for meningococcal B, which is given based on individual decisions between families and clinicians.

The survey data reflects vaccines teens have received throughout their lifetime, and most are recommended before age 13. Therefore, most of the vaccines were given before the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on vaccination rates.

Authors did note that the percentage of teens initiating the HPV series in March through December was about the same in both 2019 and 2020. Still, other studies have found [low rates for other vaccines](#) in the early months of the pandemic. Both the AAP and CDC have been urging families to make sure their children are caught up, especially as they return to school. Routine vaccines can be administered at the same time as COVID-19 vaccines.

"Ensuring that routine vaccination is maintained and that adolescents catch up on any missed doses is essential to protecting persons and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks," the CDC wrote.

Resources

- [AAP interim guidance on conducting well-child visits during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [AAP immunization resources](#)
- [Recommended child and adolescent immunization schedules](#)
- [Information for parents about HPV vaccine from HealthyChildren.org](#)

Pediatrics In Practice

New Immunizations pages– <http://www.aap.org/immunization!>

The AAP has recently launched a new [aap.org](http://www.aap.org)! The Immunization pages can now be found under the [Patient Care section](#). These pages have been laid out for easier navigation and improved search functionality. To help you find the information you need, consider starting with the pages below.

Immunizations

This page offers an overview of the importance of immunizations and their long history of success, information on AAP recommendations and policies, resources for families, and links to AAP groups involved in immunizations. The page also offers many professional resources and tools for pediatricians on the following topics:

- [Administering Immunizations in your Practice](#) (some topics include)
 - [Reminder and Recall Systems](#)
 - [Office Strategies for Improving Immunization Rates](#)
 - [Knowing Costs; Managing Costs; and Vaccine Coding and Payment](#)
 - [Immunization Administration](#)
 - [Storage and Handling](#)
 - [Vaccine Information Statements](#)
 - [Refusal to Vaccinate](#)
 - [Immunization Information Systems](#)
 - [2D Barcoding](#)
 - Educational and Quality Improvement courses and many more!
- [Communicating with Families and Promoting Vaccine Confidence \(some topics include\)](#)
 - [AAP Immunization Campaign Toolkit](#) (see below)
 - [Communicating Effectively About Immunizations](#)
 - [Responding to Common Parental Concerns](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine for Children](#)
- [Human Papillomavirus and Other Vaccines Recommended for Adolescents](#)
- [State Immunization Contacts](#)

Influenza

Following the same format as the Immunization Home page, the Influenza page also offers

- [Flu vaccine Delivery Tips for the 21-22 Season](#)
- [Managing Influenza Vaccination in Your Practice](#) including,
 - [Influenza Vaccine Pre-Booking](#)
 - [Influenza Vaccine Supply](#)
 - [Influenza Vaccine Scheduling](#)
- And more!

Immunization Campaign Toolkit

This page offers an immunization image gallery, articles to share with parents, videos on the Importance of Childhood Immunizations and Choosing to Vaccinate, infographics, and memes promoting routine immunizations that can be shared on social media.

Call your Pediatrician Campaign

The AAP [Call Your Pediatric Campaign](#) is available to help pediatricians reach out to families to remind them about the importance of visiting their pediatrician for routine care and immunizations. A “Superhero Moment” public service announcement (PSA) in English and Spanish is a particularly popular piece of the campaign!

Special Section

COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Resources

The FDA has approved the Comirnaty vaccine in teens 16 years of age and older and granted emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 12 to 15. Vaccines for children ages 5 to 11 may be authorized soon, and clinical trials are underway in children as young as six months old. Resources to support pediatricians in promoting confidence in COVID-19 vaccine are listed below.

AAP COVID-19 Policy Statement

The AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases' policy statement can be accessed here: [COVID-19 vaccines in children and adolescents](#). In this statement, the AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications to a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age group.

Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

The AAP has launched a [COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Toolkit](#) containing customizable messages, videos, and graphics to help reassure parents and caregivers about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, teens, and young adults. The contents of this toolkit are designed to reach parents who have not yet vaccinated their eligible children and encourage them to talk to a trusted voice: their pediatrician.

The campaign toolkit contains:

- Television and radio PSAs in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Animated science explainers that cover how the mRNA vaccine works and how it was developed (available on the [AAP's YouTube Channel](#)).
- [Social media campaign posts](#) and customizable templates
- Pediatrician testimonials that answer [frequently asked questions](#) and address hot topics pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine:
 - [Myocarditis and the COVID-19 Vaccine](#) with Dr Stuart Berger
 - [The COVID-19 Vaccine Helps Communities](#) with Dr Rasheeda Monroe
 - [Pediatricians Protecting Their Families from COVID-19](#) with Dr Lee Savio Beers
 - [COVID-19's Impact on Children](#) with Dr Lilly Immergluck
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine & Return to Normalcy](#) with Dr Ben Spitalnick
 - [Fertility and the COVID-19 Vaccine](#) with Dr Edith Bracho-Sanchez
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Trust](#) with Dr Nia Bodrick
 - [The COVID-19 Delta Variant](#) with Dr Rachel Levine
- [HealthyChildren.org](#) articles

Other Resources

- [The Conversation About the COVID Vaccines & Kids](#) presented by Kaiser Family Foundation and the AAP
- [How to Talk with Parents About COVID-19 Vaccination](#) webpage by the CDC
- [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines](#) webpage by the CDC

Additional Resources

Enhance Influenza Vaccination for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

As we prepare for an unpredictable respiratory season, let's do everything we can to protect children from influenza by encouraging flu vaccine and offering it wherever possible. The AAP is proud to share the following products to support influenza vaccination for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) developed in partnership with subject matter experts, health care providers, and families and caregivers of CYSHCN.

We offer a [toolkit](#) for health care providers in subspecialty and emergency settings with guiding practices on how to start or refine a flu vaccine program. This toolkit includes a [sample workflow](#), a [conversation guide](#), and [reminder cards](#) to enhance the ability of your setting to vaccinate and educate.

You can find brief videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) targeted to families and caregivers of CYSHCN, reminding them of the importance of flu vaccine. The [AAP Flu Campaign Toolkit](#) also has social media messages in English and Spanish to help you share this content. Consider highlighting these resources at your next team huddle or meeting or sharing on your website or social media channels.

As you review and distribute these products, please consider sharing your [feedback](#) in this brief, 2-minute survey so that we can continue to refine these products.

AAP Childhood Immunization Flipchart – Get it for your practice!

The AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program has developed a Childhood Immunization Flipchart. The flipchart is designed for use by pediatricians and other primary care providers during clinical encounters with patients and families to aid them in conducting efficient, productive conversations about childhood vaccination and giving a strong recommendation for childhood vaccines. It focuses on vaccines routinely provided to children from birth through age 6 years and contains family-friendly infographics and detailed speaking points that providers can use, for each of the 10 vaccines recommended in childhood.

If you would like to request copies of this flipchart to use with patients/families, please [do so here](#). We are currently mailing copies. The flipchart user guide will include suggestions for limiting germ spread while using the flipchart during the COVID-19 pandemic.