



Update for September 2024

Immunization Updates

As we enter respiratory virus season this fall, it's crucial to stay vigilant and proactive in safeguarding our young patients. Respiratory viruses, including RSV, influenza, and COVID-19, pose significant risks to young children and children. At Public Health, we are encouraging and supporting birthing hospitals to become VFC providers and to order and administer nirsevimab to all eligible newborns prior to discharge during RSV season. We also ask you to ensure your organization or clinic has plans to recommend, order and administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines updated for the 2024-2025 season to all patients 6 months of age and older, as well as nirsevimab for eligible infants and toddlers. Please review these timely updates and scroll to the bottom for upcoming immunization webinars. If you need support with ordering vaccines, please contact our VPDC Provider Vaccine Call Center at VaccineReq@ph.lacounty.gov.

VPDC Survey

LACDPH is asking for your help in filling out a quick 2-minute survey to identify how to best support pediatric providers with vaccine administration and promoting vaccine confidence with patients and their families. Please complete our short survey [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact csepulveda@ph.lacounty.gov

Immunization Updates

RSV

Infants:

- [Nirsevimab effectiveness was 90% against RSV-associated hospitalization in infants in their first RSV season.](#) To prevent severe RSV disease in infants, CDC recommends either maternal RSV vaccination or infant immunization with RSV monoclonal antibodies. Most infants will not need both.
- **Immunization for infants and young children**
 - [One dose of nirsevimab is recommended for infants younger than 8 months of age who were born shortly before or are entering their first RSV season \(October 1 to March 31st\) if:](#)
 - The birthing parent did not receive the RSV vaccine during pregnancy.
 - The birthing parent RSV vaccination status is unknown.
 - The infant was born within 14 days of maternal RSV vaccination.

Except in rare circumstances, nirsevimab is not needed for most infants younger than age 8 months who are born 14 or more days after their mother received RSV vaccine. For additional details, see section on [special situations and populations](#).

Additionally, a dose of nirsevimab [is recommended for some children aged 8 through 19 months old who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season. The following children aged 8 through 19 months are recommended to get a dose shortly before or during their second RSV season:](#)

- American Indian/Alaska Native children
- Children with chronic lung disease of prematurity who require medical support during the six months before the start of their second RSV season
- Children with severe immunocompromise
- Children with severe cystic fibrosis

Children ages 8 months and older who are not at increased risk of severe RSV disease should not receive nirsevimab.

Considerations for the use of nirsevimab or palivizumab in infants and young children at increased risk for severe RSV disease are available at ACIP and AAP Recommendations for the Use of the Monoclonal Antibody Nirsevimab for the Prevention of RSV Disease.

- ***Vaccination for pregnant people***
- 1 dose of maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy, administered September through January. Abrysvo is the only RSV vaccine recommended during pregnancy. Additional doses of RSV vaccine during future pregnancies are not recommended. However, these infants can receive nirsevimab.
- For more information about the RSV vaccines visit [Respiratory Syncytial Virus Information for Public and Providers](#) and the CDC webpage for [Immunizations to Protect Infants Against RSV](#).

RSV VFC Ordering Update:

- **Open Now:** VFC has opened for ordering of RSV products.
- **Available Products:**
- **Abrysvo:** Maternal RSV vaccine for pregnant VFC-eligible patients 18 and under.
- **Nirsevimab (Beyfortus):** 50mg and 100mg for infants. Allocation will be based on CDC supply and distributed bi-weekly. There are no shortages expected this season.

COVID-19

In August 2024, the FDA approved and authorized the Omicron JN.1 lineage (JN.1 and KP.2), 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccines by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech (KP.2 strain) and Novavax (JN.1 strain). For more information about dosing intervals, please refer to the [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) and [ACIP recommendations](#).

Per the FDA, the **2023 - 2024 Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Novavax COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized and should not be administered**. It will be considered an administration error if this vaccine is given now that the new COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use. Please ensure the following to minimize the risk of vaccine administration errors:

- Remove all 2023 - 2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from storage units **immediately**, even if they are not expired.
- Cancel appointments scheduled where only the **2023-2024 Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19** vaccines were to be administered.
- Return **all unused 2023 - 2024 mRNA COVID vaccines** to CDC's centralized

distributor using the normal process for returning spoiled/expired vaccines. Note: VFC and BAP providers are to return expired/spoiled vaccines to McKesson. Guidance is available at <https://eziz.org/vaccine-management/vaccine-returns/>.

- Document any vaccine identified for disposal as 'wasted' in myCAVax/CAIR.
- If you administered any of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines after Thursday 8/22/2024, doses need to be reported in the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#) (VAERS).

Click [here](#) for more information on the FDA's approval of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccines visit [COVID-19 Vaccine information for Public and Providers](#).

Suggested Message: COVID-19 Prevention:

The new school year is here – and unfortunately so are the new illnesses! Share messages encouraging parents and caregivers to prepare for sick days by reviewing the [CDPH symptom guide](#), which provides information for parents to decide if children should stay home from school due to illness.

COVID-19 levels are still high in California. [Share messages](#) encouraging Californians to take steps to reduce COVID-19 risk:

- Stay home and test if you're sick.
- Seek prescription treatments if you test positive.
- Consider masking when traveling or in crowded indoor settings.
- Wash your hands regularly and always cover your cough and sneezes. Continue highlighting the importance of staying up to date on recommended vaccines as children return to school or childcare:
 - [CDPH Don't Wait Vaccinate Toolkit](#)
 - [CDPH Back to School Vaccination Parents Guide](#)
 - [Shots for School Program](#)

Influenza

2024-2025 VFC Flu Vaccine Products Overview:

For the upcoming flu season, the VFC Program has pre-booked 1.8 million doses of flu vaccines through the CDC, based on provider requests from January 2024. The available products are:

- **Flucelvax** (Seqirus): 0.5ml single dose syringe for ages 6 months to 18 years. **140,000 doses** pre-booked.
- **FluLaval** (GSK): 0.5ml single dose syringe for ages 6 months to 18 years. **850,000 doses** pre-booked.
- **FluMist** (AstraZeneca): 0.2ml single dose sprayer for ages 2 to 18 years. **60,000 doses** pre-booked.
- **Fluzone** (Sanofi): 0.5ml single dose syringe for ages 6 months to 18 years. **750,000 doses** pre-booked.
- These pre-booked doses will support vaccination efforts across the designated

age groups.

CDC's Wild to Mild Flu Campaign

CDC's seasonal flu vaccination campaign materials are available to assist partners in communicating about the importance of vaccination. This digital toolkit includes details on events/activities, sample social media and newsletter content, graphics, web assets, and media prep material. This material is downloadable, shareable, and some of the material is customizable.

For more information about respiratory viruses visit:

<http://ph.lacounty.gov/acd/respiratory.htm#immunizations>

For Viral Respiratory Surveillance for LA County visit: [RESP WATCH](#)

Upcoming Webinars

California Department of Public Health: Immunization Updates for Providers

His webinar provides Immunization Branch (IZB) updates, including COVID-19, RSV, Flu and other relevant vaccine and program updates. Pre-registration is required. The sessions are scheduled for every other week on Fridays from 9- 10:30am. **Upcoming:** September 20, 2024.

Complete one-time registration [here](#).

LA County Department of Public Health: Provider Immunization Office Hours

This webinar will include important immunization updates for providers in Los Angeles County. Pre-registration is not required. The sessions are scheduled for every other week on Wednesdays from 9-10am. **Upcoming:** September 25, 2024

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Public Health Communications Collaborative: Developing a Response Plan to Misinformation in Public Health Confirmation

When: Wednesday September 25, 2024 at 10:00 PM PT.

Join Public Health Communications Collaborative for a webinar on Developing a Response Plan to Misinformation in Public Health Confirmation. Discover key strategies to counter misinformation and strengthen your communication efforts.

Complete one-time registration [here](#).