**Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program**

ph.lacounty.gov/vaccines

County of Los Angeles Public Health

## California Assembly Bill 144

**Assembly Bill 144 has been signed into Law**

- California Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 144 on September 17, 2025, which shifts from the State's reliance on CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for setting vaccine recommendations.
- CDPH vaccine recommendations are informed by recommendations by professional medical and scientifically based organizations.
- This law allows a broader scope of practice for vaccine administrations, enabling pharmacists, podiatrists, dentists and optometrists to prescribe and administer vaccines recommended by CDPH.

*How does this affect vaccinations in CA?*

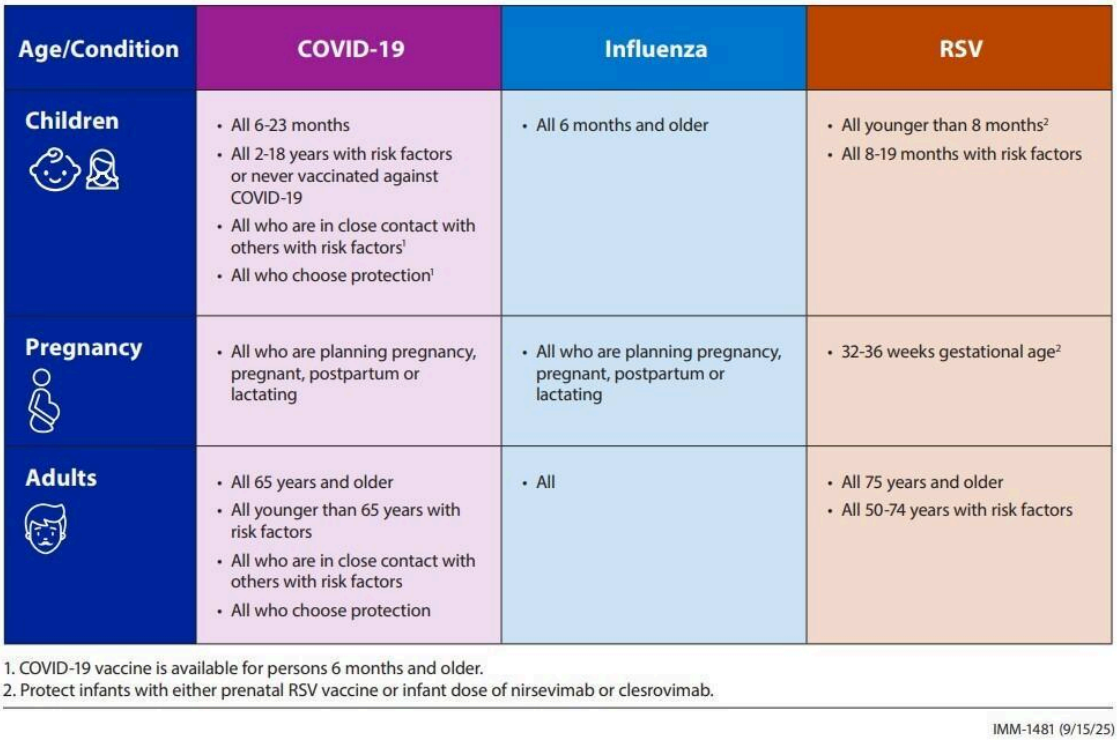
- CDPH vaccine recommendations must be covered by CA Health Plans, including Medi-Cal managed care plans. This means that if CDPH recommends a vaccine, it will be covered by insurance plans even if it is not recommended by ACIP.
- Provides liability protection to providers who administer vaccines based on CDPH recommendations.
- A pharmacist may independently initiate and administer immunizations recommended by CDPH.

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## CDPH Vaccine Recommendations for 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season

**All Californians who choose protection are recommended to receive updated COVID-19 vaccines**

CDPH vaccine recommendations were released in collaboration with the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) partners Oregon, Washington and Hawaii and informed by national medical organizations including: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).



| Age/Condition | COVID-19 | Influenza | RSV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children | • All 6-23 months<br>• All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19<br>• All who are in close contact with others with risk factors[1]<br>• All who choose protection[1] | • All 6 months and older | • All younger than 8 months[2]<br>• All 8-19 months with risk factors |
| Pregnancy | • All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating | • All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating | • 32-36 weeks gestational age[2] |
| Adults | • All 65 years and older<br>• All younger than 65 years with risk factors<br>• All who are in close contact with others with risk factors<br>• All who choose protection | • All | • All 75 years and older<br>• All 50-74 years with risk factors |

1. COVID-19 vaccine is available for persons 6 months and older.
2. Protect infants with either prenatal RSV vaccine or infant dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab.

IMM-1481 (9/15/25)

- Printable PDF of recommendations
- COVID-19 risk factors defined by CDPH
- COVID-19 Vaccine Timing schedule

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## Pediatric Provider Survey – We want to hear from you!

We need your help! Please help us to assess current availability and access to pediatric immunization across Los Angeles County by taking this 2-minute survey. Your valuable input will help us identify barriers and inform additional support, resources, or guidance that would strengthen respiratory protection for pediatric populations this upcoming season.

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## Summary of ACIP Meeting September 18 - 19, 2025

In June 2025, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. dismissed all 17 standing members of the ACIP citing concerns about potential conflicts of interest, although some reports had previously found no evidence of such issues. New members were appointed, including individuals who have publicly questioned aspects of vaccine policy. The changes at ACIP coincided with broader leadership shifts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including the dismissal of CDC Director and the resignation of several senior CDC officials, some of whom expressed concerns about the agency's direction and the role of politics in public health

decisions. Despite calls to delay, the reconstituted ACIP convened on September 18–19 to review vaccine recommendations for MMRV, Hepatitis B, and COVID-19. A summary of ACIP recommendations and votes is below.

**Importantly, these recommendations do not become federal policy guidance until the acting CDC Director signs a decision memo. This has not occurred to date.**

**MMRV**

- ACIP recommends separating MMR and Varicella vaccine for all children under 4 years of age. The combined MMRV vaccine is no longer recommended for children under age 4 years but can be used for those 4-12 years of age.

**Hepatitis B Vaccine**

- ACIP recommends that providers test all pregnant women for hepatitis B
- The planned vote to change the pediatric vaccine schedule, including removing recommendation for hepatitis B birth dose given at 0 months, was tabled for future discussion.

**COVID-19 Vaccine**

- Updates toCOVID-19 Epidemiology and Vaccine Effectiveness, Estimated Vaccine Coverage, Safety Uncertainties of mRNA COVID Vaccines, Genomics of Vaccine-Induced Myocarditis, and COVID-19 Discussion Framing were discussed.
- Recommendation framework: ACIP voted to endorse a model of individual decision making based on shared clinical decision-making between a patient and their healthcare provider. People aged65 and older should receive vaccination based on individual-based decision making, and people aged 6 months to 64 years should receive vaccination based on individual-based decision making with emphasis on risks/benefits discussion.
- Vote on prescription requirement: ACIP voted against a requirement for a physician's prescription for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Votes on vaccine risks and benefits communication: ACIP voted for CDC to update language about potential risk and benefits. Additionally, they voted for healthcare providers to communicate risk and benefits at the individual-level.

*ACIP Meeting Slides* may be found here. *Meeting minutes* will be available here within 90-120 days of meeting.

**What does this mean for you:**

If ACIP recommendations are approved by the Acting CDC Director:

- MMRV will be removed from the vaccine schedule for children under the age of 4.

- COVID-19 vaccines will remain covered across private health plans, Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare—there will be no cost-sharing for all individuals aged 6 months and older.
- COVID-19 vaccines will remain available for eligible patients through the Vaccines for Children program.
- Healthcare providers can continue to provide COVID-19 vaccine without a need for prescription.