



**To: CAHAN San Diego Participants**

**Date: October 6, 2025**

**From: Public Health Services**

**Health Advisory: Updates to Fall 2025 Respiratory Virus Vaccine Recommendations in California**

#### **Key Messages**

- On September 17th, 2025, California Governor Newsom signed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 144](#). This law shifts the authority for setting California's vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- As a result, all providers in California should now follow CDPH vaccine recommendations which may differ from those issued by ACIP.
- Under AB 144, vaccines recommended by CDPH must be [covered by California Health Plans](#), including [Medi-Cal managed care plans](#). This means that these insurance plans will cover vaccines recommended by CDPH even if ACIP does not recommend them.
- This bill also provides liability protection to providers who administer vaccines based on CDPH recommendations. Additionally, it allows pharmacists to independently initiate and administer immunizations recommended by CDPH.
- Per [CDPH's 2025–26 Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations](#), **all Californians 6 months and older who choose protection are recommended to receive updated COVID-19 vaccines**. For the RSV vaccine, the age of when vaccination is recommended for persons at risk was lowered to 50 years. The Influenza vaccine recommendations remain unchanged from last year.

#### **Situation**

CDPH has released its respiratory virus vaccine recommendations for the 2025-2026 season, while there are differences between federal (ACIP) and CDPH recommendations this season, new legislation, AB 144, codifies that CDPH recommendation supersedes ACIP recommendations.

#### **Background**

CDPH's respiratory vaccine recommendations were developed 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 \(AAFP\)](#).




Concurrently, AB 144 was signed into law. It states California's recommendation will be based on the federal ACIP immunization recommendations in effect on January 1, 2025. After this date, CDPH is authorized to update recommendations as needed, taking into consideration emerging science and guidance from professional organizations.

Under AB 144, all vaccines recommended by CDPH must be covered by health insurance regulated by the Department of Managed Care Health Care, including HMOs and Medi-Cal managed care plans. Federal insurance programs such as Medicare and some PPO's do not fall under this new state law. However, [America's Health Insurance Plans \(AHIP\)](#) has committed to covering all ACIP recommended immunizations including updated formulations of COVID-19 vaccines with no cost-sharing for patients through the end of 2026.

Additionally, providers administering vaccines recommended by CDPH are protected from liability and pharmacists may independently administer immunizations recommended by CDPH to patients three years and older, without a prescription.

The timing of availability for 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines through VFC awaits the ratification of recent recommendations from ACIP by CDC or US HHS leadership.

#### Consensus WCHA 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
<b>Children</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 6-23 months</li> <li>All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19</li> <li>All who are in close contact with others with risk factors<sup>1</sup></li> <li>All who choose protection<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 6 months and older</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All younger than 8 months<sup>2</sup></li> <li>All 8-19 months with risk factors</li> </ul>
<b>Pregnancy</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32-36 weeks gestational age<sup>2,3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Adults</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 65 years and older</li> <li>All younger than 65 years with risk factors</li> <li>All who are in close contact with others with risk factors</li> <li>All who choose protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 75 years and older<sup>3</sup></li> <li>All 50-74 years with risk factors<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>

- COVID-19 vaccine is available for persons 6 months and older.
- Protect infants with either prenatal RSV vaccine or infant dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab.
- RSV vaccination during pregnancy or for adults is currently recommended once rather than annually.

#### Actions Requested

- Administer COVID-19 vaccines** to all persons 6 months and older who desire protection. Prioritize vaccine for those:
  - 65 years and older
  - Who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum, or lactating
  - Infants 6–23 months and children 2-18 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19
  - Individuals with risk factors that put them at [increased risk for severe disease](#)
  - Individuals who are in close contact with others with risk factors
- Administer influenza vaccine** to all persons 6 months and older.
  - Children under the age of 10- 9 may need 2 doses of influenza vaccine if they have not previously received vaccine in previous years
  - Older adults over the age of 65 should get recombinant, adjuvanted, or high dose influenza vaccines

3. **Administer RSV immunizations** to eligible patients including:
  - a. All adults aged 75 years and older who have not previously received an RSV vaccine dose (Abrysvo, Arexvy, mResvia)
  - b. Adults aged 50-74 years with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) that increase their risk for severe RSV who have not previously received an RSV vaccine (Abrysvo, Arexvy, mResvia)
  - c. Pregnant persons 32-36 weeks pregnant during September through January (Abrysvo)
  - d. Infants younger than 8 months of age who are born during or are entering their first RSV season (October through March) if:
    - i. the mother did not receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy, or
    - ii. the mother's RSV vaccination status is unknown, or
    - iii. the infant was born within 14 days of maternal RSV vaccination (nirsevimab/Beyfortus or clesrovimab/Enflonsia)
  - e. Children 8-19 months [at high risk](#) for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season (October through March) (nirsevimab/Beyfortus)
4. **Educate and reassure patients** that recommended vaccines remain safe and effective, particularly for those at higher risk of severe disease.

#### Resources

- [Public Health for All | CDPH](#)
- [CDPH's 2025–26 Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations | CDPH](#)
- [COVID-19 risk factors | CDPH](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Timing | CDPH](#)
- [Respiratory Viruses | COSD](#)
- [Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations | COSD](#)
- [Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations FAQ | COSD](#)
- [September 19, 2025 ACIP Meeting Slides on COVID-19 vaccines | CDC](#)

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