



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, State Epidemiologist
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Respiratory Virus Immunization Recommendations for 2026–2027

Summary

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to provide updated recommendations for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 vaccination for the 2026–2027 season. The Maine CDC recommends that Maine clinicians follow immunization guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

Background

On September 2, 2026, the American Medical Association (AMA) and Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) released an evidence review for all ages of fall recommendations for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 vaccination.

The recommendations were based on the [systematic reviews of scientific evidence from nearly 300 studies](#), with vaccine effectiveness and safety data analyzed and categorized by age and risk group. The evidence review process was coordinated by AMA and VIP to make recommendations by the following organizations for specific populations:

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): Children aged 0–18 years
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP): Adults aged 19 years and older and health care personnel
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG): People who are pregnant
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA): People who are immunocompromised

The following table provides the 2026–2027 recommendations by populations, age group, and target disease:

2026–2027 Respiratory Virus Immunization Recommendations

Population	Influenza (flu)	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	COVID-19
Children and Adolescents 0–18 years (AAP)	Annual flu vaccine for all children 6 months old and older	All infants <8 months old, if no protection from RSV vaccine during pregnancy, and children 8–19 months old in certain risk groups who are entering their second RSV season	All young children 6–23 months old Children 2–18 years old in certain risk groups, or if desired
Pregnancy (ACOG)	Annual flu vaccine (do not use active vaccines like intranasal flu vaccine)	One-time RSV vaccine in first eligible pregnancy if 32–36 weeks pregnant, given between September 1 and March 1	Annual COVID-19 vaccine
Adults 19–64 years (AAFP)	Annual flu vaccine for all adults ages 19 years and older	One-time RSV vaccine for adults ages 50–74 years old at increased risk of severe RSV disease	Annual COVID-19 vaccine
Older Adults 65 years and older (AAFP)	Annual flu vaccine for all adults Use enhanced flu vaccine (high dose, adjuvanted, recombinant, or mRNA) for age 65 years and older, if possible	One-time RSV vaccine recommended for adults ages 50–74 years old at increased risk and all adults age 75 years old and older	Annual COVID-19 vaccine for adults 65 years and older, followed by a second dose 6 months later to boost protection
Immunocompromised (IDSA)	Annual flu vaccine for those ages ≥6 months (do not use active vaccine products, e.g., intranasal flu vaccine)	Single dose of RSV vaccine for those ages ≥18 years old Single dose of RSV vaccine for those ages <18 years old, should be guided by shared clinical decision-making	Annual COVID-19 vaccine for those ages ≥6 months old A second booster may extend protection.
Health Care Personnel (AAFP)	Annual flu vaccine*	Follow age- and risk-based RSV vaccine recommendations	Annual COVID-19 vaccine

Source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/respiratory-virus-immunization-recommendations.pdf>

*An annual dose of inactivated influenza vaccine or live attenuated influenza vaccine is a requirement for Maine health care workers. See [health care immunization law](#) for further guidance.

Key Changes from the 2025–2026 season

Influenza

The strains have been updated. This year’s vaccines cover two influenza A viruses and one influenza B virus. One new product is available, the mRNA vaccine.

RSV

Adults: No new changes for the 2026–2027 season.

Infants/children: For 2026–2027, AAP expanded high-risk criteria for children 8–19 months to include:

- Children born preterm at less than 32 weeks gestation, regardless of the need for medication or other support.
- Children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease.
- Children with anatomic pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular disorders that put them at risk for severe RSV disease.
- Children with Down syndrome or other chromosomal differences placing them at higher risk of severe RSV disease.

COVID-19

The strain selection has been updated to target the XFG strain (a recombinant Omicron JN.1-lineage variant). Annual vaccination is recommended for all health care workers.

Current Vaccine Availability and Coverage

Influenza Vaccines

- All influenza vaccines available for the 2026–2027 season are trivalent.
- All influenza vaccine presentations supplied through the Maine Immunization Program (MIP) for the 2026–2027 season are thimerosal-free.
- MIP will supply seasonal influenza vaccine for all children in Maine, ages 6 months through 18 years, through health care providers enrolled in the MIP.
- A limited supply through MIP is available for adults 19–64 years who are uninsured and underinsured only. Providers should continue to order private influenza vaccine for their insured (including MaineCare) adults.
- **State-supplied influenza vaccine cannot be given to insured adults 19–64 years old or 65 years and older.**

Vaccine Type	Manufacturer Product	Routine recommendation	MIP vaccine-eligible population
Standard-dose unadjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3)	GSK - FluLaval Sanofi - Fluzone	Ages 6 months and older	Supplied for: Children 6 months–18 years Adults 19–64 years underinsured and uninsured ONLY
	GSK - Fluarix	Ages 6 months and older	Not supplied
Cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine (ccIIV3)	Seqirus - Flucelvax	Ages 6 months and older	Supplied for: Children 6 months–18 years Adults 19–64 underinsured and uninsured ONLY
High-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV3)	Sanofi - Fluzone high dose	Ages 65 years and older	Not supplied
Adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV3)	Seqirus - Fluad	Ages 65 years and older	Not supplied
Recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV3)	Sanofi - Flublok	9 years and older	Not supplied
Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV3)	AstraZeneca - FluMist	2 years through 49 years (<i>not approved for use in pregnant individuals</i>)	Supplied for: Children 2 years through 18 years

RSV Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies

Vaccine Type	Manufacturer Product	Routine recommendation	MIP vaccine-eligible population
Recombinant, adjuvanted RSV vaccine (RSVPreF3)	GSK - Arexvy	• Unvaccinated people 75 years of age and older • Unvaccinated people 50–74 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease*	Supplied for: • Adults 50–64 years
Recombinant RSV vaccine (RSVpreF)	Pfizer - Abrysvo	• Unvaccinated people 75 years of age and over • Unvaccinated people 50–74 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease • Unvaccinated pregnant individuals at 32 through 36 weeks gestational age.	Supplied for: • Adults 50–64 years • Pregnant individuals
mRNA RSV vaccine (mRNA-1345)	Moderna - mResvia	• Unvaccinated people aged 75+ • Adults aged 50–74 with increased risk of severe RSV illness	Supplied for: • Adults 50–64 years
Long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody (nirsevimab)	Sanofi – Beyfortus	• All infants <8 months (weighing less than 5 kg (11 lbs.) born during or entering their first RSV season • All infants >8 months (weighing greater than 5 kg (11 lbs.) born during or entering their first RSV season • Some children aged 8–19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV entering their second season only.[†]	Supplied for: • Infants & children: 8–19 months
Long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody (clesrovimab-cfor)	Merck - Enflonsia	• All infants <8 months born during or entering their first RSV season, regardless of weight.	Supplied for: • Infants <8 months

*** Risk factors for severe RSV illness among adults ages 50–74 include:**

- Chronic cardiovascular or lung disease
- End-stage renal disease
- Certain diabetes complications
- Neurologic or neuromuscular conditions affecting breathing
- Chronic liver or hematologic disease
- Severe obesity (BMI ≥ 40)
- Moderate/severe immune compromise
- Nursing home residents

† Children at greatest risk for severe illness from RSV include:

- Infants and young children (the younger the age, the higher the risk)
- American Indian and Alaska Native children
- Children born prematurely
- Children with chronic lung disease or congenital (present from birth) heart disease
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Children with severe cystic fibrosis
- Children who have neuromuscular disorders, especially those who have difficulty swallowing or clearing mucus secretions

Expanded high-risk criteria for children 8–19 months include:

- Children born preterm at less than 32 weeks gestation, regardless of the need for medication or other support
- Children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease
- Children with anatomic pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular disorders that put them at risk for severe RSV disease
- Children with Down syndrome or other chromosomal differences placing them at higher risk of severe RSV disease

Additional RSV Guidance for Adults:

- **Adults:** RSV is not currently an annual vaccine. Adults who have previously received an RSV vaccine should not receive an additional dose at this time.
- MIP will supply RSV vaccine to eligible adults aged 50–64. Ordering will begin October 1, 2026. RSV vaccination is recommended for all adults 75 years or older and for adults 50–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease.
 - **Please note:** State-supplied adult RSV vaccine can be given to adults age 50–64 who are uninsured, underinsured, privately insured, or enrolled in MaineCare. It cannot be given to adults age 65 and older.
- **Timing for adults:** RSV vaccine may be administered any time of year; however, vaccination is ideally administered in August through October before RSV typically begins to circulate.
- **Pregnancy:** Abrysvo is the only RSV vaccine recommended for use during pregnancy.
 - It is currently not recommended that pregnant individuals who received the maternal RSV vaccine during their last pregnancy receive an additional dose during a subsequent pregnancy. For patients vaccinated in a previous pregnancy, their infants should receive an RSV monoclonal antibody.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccine Type	Manufacturer & Product	Routine recommendation	MIP vaccine-eligible population
COVID-19 mRNA (messenger RNA)	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty	Children age 5–11 years <i>* There is currently no FDA-approved or authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months – 4 years.</i>	Supplied for: • Children 5–11 years
COVID-19 mRNA (messenger RNA)	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty	Individuals 12 years and older	Supplied for: • Children 12–18 years • Limited supply available for uninsured and underinsured adults 19–64 years
COVID-19 mRNA (messenger RNA)	Moderna Spikevax	Children ages 6 months–11 years	Supplied for: • Children 6 months–11 years
COVID-19 mRNA (messenger RNA)	Moderna Spikevax	Individuals 12 years and older	Supplied for: • Children 12–18 years • Limited supply available for uninsured and underinsured adults 19–64 years
COVID-19, Adjuvanted (protein-based, non-mRNA)	Sanofi Nuvaxovid	Individuals 12 years and older	Supplied for: • Children 12–18 years • Limited supply available for uninsured and underinsured adults 19–64 years

- MIP will supply COVID-19 vaccines for all children in Maine, ages 6 months through 18 years.
- A limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines will be available for uninsured and underinsured adults ages 19–64 years. MIP will update providers when ordering opens for uninsured and underinsured adults ages 19–64. Providers should continue to order private COVID-19 vaccine for insured adults (including MaineCare).
- **State-supplied COVID-19 vaccine cannot be given to insured adults 19–64 years old or 65 years and older.**

For more information:

- [2026-2027 Respiratory Season Evidence Review Executive Summary | Vaccine Integrity Project](#)
- [AMA Respiratory Virus Immunization Recommendations](#)

Influenza:

- [2026-2027 Influenza Vaccine Products](#) – Immunize.org
- [Preparing for the 2026-2027 Influenza Season](#) – AAP
- [2026-2027 Influenza Season](#) – U.S. CDC
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Seasonal Influenza Vaccines](#) – U.S. CDC

RSV:

- [RSV Immunization Administration](#) – AAP
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention](#) – AAP
- [RSV Immunization Administration Visual Guide](#) – AAP
- [Maternal Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccination](#) – ACOG
- [Respiratory Virus Vaccines: Clinical Guidance and Resources](#) – AAFP

COVID-19:

- [COVID Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference](#) – AAP
- [Fall Immunization Recommendations to Protect Patients and Communities](#) – AAFP