



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

September 19, 2025

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to provide you with guidance about immunizations to protect Maryland residents from three important respiratory viruses that circulate each year in Maryland: COVID-19, influenza and RSV. These viruses continue to cause significant morbidity and mortality in the community. During the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season, there were nearly 5,000 Maryland residents hospitalized with lab-confirmed COVID, over 8,000 hospitalized with lab-confirmed influenza, and more than 2,600 hospitalized with lab-confirmed RSV. More than 1,200 of those hospitalized patients died ([MDH Respiratory Virus Surveillance](#)).

As you know, evidence continues to show that vaccines are a safe and effective way to prevent severe illness and keep our communities healthy. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) remains committed to ensuring widespread access to vaccines and to promoting evidence-based vaccination guidance. For this respiratory season, MDH is recommending that providers follow the evidence-based vaccine guidance issued by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#), the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\)](#), and the [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#). We urge clinicians to discuss vaccinations with their patients and offer vaccination against COVID-19, Flu, and RSV in accordance with the below guidance:

COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Maryland Clinicians:

Pediatrics (ages 6 months–18 years): American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at:

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/doi/10.1542/peds.2025-073924/203222/Recommendations-for-COVID-19-Vaccines-in-Infants>

- **Recommended:** All infants 6-23 months
- **Recommended:** Children 6 months through 18 years of age who are moderately or severely immunocompromised require 2 or more doses depending on previous vaccination status
- **Recommended:** All children and adolescents 2 through 18 years in the following risk groups:
 - Persons at high risk of severe COVID-19
 - Residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings
 - Persons who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19
 - Persons whose household contacts are at high risk for severe COVID-19

- Permissive: Children 2 through 18 years of age not included in the risk groups above whose parent or guardian desires their protection from COVID-19

Pregnant and Lactating Individuals (all ages as applicable): American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at: <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>

- Recommended: All pregnant and lactating individuals receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine
- Recommended: Individuals contemplating pregnancy

Adults (ages 19 years and older): American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at: <https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines.html?>

- Recommended: All adults 19 years and older are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This is especially important for the following individuals:
 - Adults 65 years and older
 - Adults at increased risk for severe COVID-19 infection
 - Adults who have never received a COVID-19 vaccine

In order to help ensure that access to the COVID-19 vaccine aligns with this evidence-based guidance, MDH has issued a statewide COVID-19 vaccination standing order today that authorizes qualified health care professionals to administer vaccinations using the most current evidence-based guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Family Physicians as standards and exercising reasonable medical judgement in vaccinating their patients. **(Standing Order attached).**

Influenza Vaccination Recommendations for Maryland Clinicians

Overall, recommendations for who should receive influenza vaccinations this season, including recommendations from [AAP](#), [ACOG](#), and [AAFP](#), are unchanged from prior years, and are summarized as follows:

- Recommended: Everyone 6 months and older without medical contradictions should receive the 2025-2026 influenza vaccine

RSV Immunization Recommendations for Maryland Clinicians

Pediatrics (Infants–age 19 months)

For infants, two monoclonal antibody products, nirsevimab (Beyfortus) and clesrovimab (ENFLONZIA), are available, and recommended by the AAP at

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/doi/10.1542/peds.2025-073923/203221/Recommendations-for-the-Prevention-of-RSV-Disease> (click on PDF):

- **Recommended:** Infants <8 mo of age born during or entering their first RSV season if:
 - pregnant parent did not receive RSV vaccine during this pregnancy
 - pregnant parent's RSV vaccination status is unknown
 - infant was born <14 days after the pregnant parent's RSV vaccination
- **Recommended:** Infants and children 8 through 19 months of age at high risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season, regardless of the RSV vaccination status of the pregnant parent or the child's prior receipt of nirsevimab or clesrovimab when <8 months of age in their first RSV season. High-risk criteria include the following:
 - Children with chronic lung disease of prematurity who required medical support (chronic corticosteroid therapy, diuretic therapy, or supplemental oxygen) at any time during the 6-month period before the start of the second RSV season
 - Children with severe immunocompromise
 - Children with cystic fibrosis who have either:
 - manifestations of severe lung disease (previous hospitalization for pulmonary exacerbation in the first year of life or abnormalities on chest imaging that persist when stable), or
 - weight-for-length that is less than the 10th percentile
 - American Indian or Alaska Native children

Pregnant Patients

For pregnant patients, the following one RSV vaccine (Pfizer's bivalent RSVpreF vaccine "Abrysvo") is recommended by [ACOG](#) and [AAFP](#) as follows:

- **Recommended:** For all pregnant individuals who meet the following criteria:
 - Are between 32 0/7 and 36 6/7 weeks of gestation,
 - Do not have a planned delivery within 2 weeks,
 - Did not receive the maternal RSV vaccine during a previous pregnancy, and
 - Are not planning to have their infant receive a monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab or clesrovimab.

Adults

One dose of RSV vaccination is recommended by the [AAFP](#) for the following adults:

- **Recommended:** For all previously unvaccinated adults 75 years old and older
- **Recommended:** For previously unvaccinated adults aged 50-74 years old at increased risk of severe RSV disease

Co-Administration of COVID-19, influenza and RSV Vaccines:

MDH supports the co-administration of vaccines, including administering the COVID-19, influenza and RSV vaccines at the same visit, based on current evidence regarding the safety of this approach. For people who prefer to get their recommended COVID-19, influenza and RSV

vaccines at different visits, no specific amount of time is required between vaccine administration for each vaccine.

Additional Resources:

As federal vaccine policy continues to evolve, we understand that providers and the public may continue to have additional questions. To try to help address related questions, including where Maryland residents can get the updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine and whether or not this and other vaccines will be covered by insurance, we have established the following website with frequently asked questions: <https://health.maryland.gov/covid/Pages/Vaccines.aspx> This site will be updated as new information becomes available.

For information regarding Medicaid coverage, please also view the latest Provider Transmittals at <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/transmittals.aspx>.

For questions about these recommendations, please contact MDH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau (IDEORB) at 410-767-6700, or your [local health department](#).

MDH will update you via these letters with any changes or updates to this guidance. In addition, MDH continues to evaluate the information and actions of the recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, including related to other vaccines and to changes for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and will be sharing additional guidance via a Dear Colleague letter, FAQs on our website, and other communications in the coming days.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucia Donatelli", followed by the text "MD FAAP" in a smaller, printed font.

Lucia Donatelli, MD, FAAP
Chief, Center for Immunizations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Sullivan", in a cursive style.

Meg Sullivan, MD, MPH
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services

Attachments: MDH Standing Order 2025-2026 COVID Vaccine