



# HoosierVax Health: Vaccine Insights for Clinicians

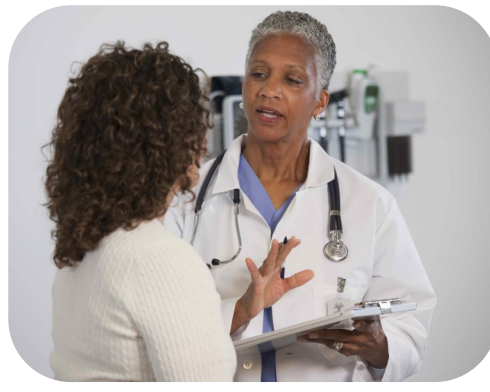
August 2024

## Spotlight

### August is National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunizations Awareness Month (NIAM) which provides a vital opportunity for medical professionals to reinforce the importance of vaccination across all age groups. This month serves as a reminder of the critical role immunizations play in preventing the spread of infectious disease.

As healthcare providers, your role in educating patients about the benefits and necessity of vaccines is invaluable. Use this month to prioritize offering needed vaccinations during routine visits as well as to address any questions or concerns patients may have. Emphasize that vaccines are a key component in preventing outbreaks and protecting those who are most vulnerable.



By staying proactive in promoting and administering vaccines, we can continue to safeguard our communities and protect the health of all Hoosiers. More information and resources to help discuss immunizations with your patients can be found [here](#).

## Protect Yourself from RSV, Flu & More

As summer comes to a close and we prepare for fall, it is important to review how to stay focused on maintaining protection from respiratory illnesses that are common during the upcoming seasons.

At the end of June, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to review vaccine recommendations. In the coming weeks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) will finalize fall recommendations. Recommendations for this season include:

- ACIP recommends adults 75 years of age and older receive a single dose of RSV vaccine
- ACIP recommends adults 60-74 years of age and older who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease receive a single dose of RSV vaccine

We can advocate for older adults in our community to receive an RSV vaccination if they have not otherwise done so. It is important to note that the RSV vaccination is recommended as a **single lifetime dose only**. Individuals who have already received RSV vaccination are **not** recommended to receive another dose. For older adults, there are three vaccine products which provide RSV coverage: the Pfizer RSV vaccine, Abrysvo; the GSK RSV vaccine, Arexvy; and the Moderna RSV vaccine, mRESVIA. RSV vaccines are able to be given at the same time of administration as other adult vaccines.

For pregnant women, there is the Pfizer RSV vaccine, Abrysvo, which is recommended for individuals between their 32<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, during the months of September through January in most of the continental United States.



For infants and certain young children, Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) is a monoclonal antibody product that is available. Protection will extend from vaccination to the neonate for an infant whose birth parent received the vaccine during pregnancy; in this case, there is no indication to receive Nirsevimab. For infants born without inherited protection, they must be 8 months old or younger and born shortly before or during their first RSV season to receive Nirsevimab. Administration for both products is not recommended for most infants. Additionally, Nirsevimab is recommended for young children between 8 months and 19 months who are at an increased risk of severe RSV due to underlying conditions.

More information on RSV and the vaccination types can be found [here](#).

### COVID-19

- ACIP recommends 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines as authorized or approved by FDA in persons ≥ 6 months of age.

The 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be available to the public this fall. Lookout for an update following the release of the final MMWR which will go into more detail regarding this year's vaccine formulation. More information on COVID-19 and the vaccination types can be found [here](#).

### Influenza

- ACIP reaffirms the recommendation for routine annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications
- ACIP recommends high dose inactivated and adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines as acceptable options for influenza vaccination of solid organ transplant recipients aged 18 through 64 years who are on immunosuppressive medication.

Similar to flu seasons past, there are several formulations of the influenza vaccine available for the public. Two main categories of influenza vaccination include the traditional injectable formulation and the live, attenuated nasal spray formulation. As the recommendation states, influenza vaccines are recommended for anyone over the age of 6 months. Influenza vaccination is particularly important for specific high-risk groups including older adults, individuals with asthma, or individuals with compromised immune systems.

More information on influenza vaccines can be found [here](#).

### Pneumococcal

- ACIP recommends PCV21 as an option for adults ≥19 years who currently have a recommendation to receive a dose of PCV

This recommendation emphasizes the importance of understanding an individual's clinical history and underlying conditions when making vaccine recommendations. Pneumococcal vaccination is indicated for all children under the age of 5 as part of routine immunization. It is also recommended for all individuals following 5 to 64 years of age if those individuals have underlying medical conditions which would put them at an increased risk of severe pneumococcal infection. Further, all adults over the age of 65 should receive a pneumococcal vaccination.

More information on Pneumococcal vaccines can be found [here](#).

Pneumococcal vaccines can seem daunting, but it is important to place value on shared clinical decision-making in this respect. The health care provider who is preparing and administering the vaccines has a responsibility to assess the patient's history for appropriate recommendations. There are a variety of resources and tools to aid in developing strong, confident recommendations for patients. One great resource is the PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor app. This application allows for the provider to enter non-identifying information about the patient such as age and underlying medical conditions. The app contains an algorithm which provides the most accurate recommendations based on the information provided.

You can find more information about this tool [here](#).

## CHIRP and User Group Training

The Indiana Department of Health will be conducting Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) user group meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for users to learn about CHIRP, hear programmatic updates, learn about new tools and resources and address concerns related to the registry.

All times listed below are local times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [ChirpITHelp@health.in.gov](mailto:ChirpITHelp@health.in.gov). Previous UGM recordings can be found [here](#).

### Important Dates

#### VFC Ordering

- Flu Busters 2, Phase 1: Aug. 5 — Sept. 30
- Flu Busters 2, Phase 2: Oct. 1 — Dec. 6
- Flu Busters 2, Phase 3: Jan. 2 — Jun. 30, 2025

#### User Group Meetings

- 9:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m. CST, Sept. 18, 219 Health Network, 4320 Fir St. East Chicago IN, 46312, North Entrance POB Conference Room
- 11 a.m. — Noon EST, Oct. 21 - virtual web training, <https://isdh.pividal.tv/Live-Events-With-Chat>
- 9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 19 at Hendricks County Health Department, 355 S Washington St G, Danville
- 11 a.m. — Noon EST, Dec. 18 - virtual web training, <https://isdh.pividal.tv/Live-Events-With-Chat>

#### Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) Meetings

- **Northern Membership Meeting**  
Noon — 4 p.m., Sept. 12 at Swan Lake Resort Conference Center, 5203 Plymouth Laporte Trail, Plymouth

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

