

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network  
[DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov)  
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## COVID-19, RSV, and Influenza for 2023-2024 Season

### Key Points and Recommendations:

- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommends](#) the updated 2023 – 2024 COVID-19 vaccine (monovalent XBB.1.5 containing vaccine) for all persons 6 months of age or older.
  - Review CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for detailed clinical recommendations when updated in the coming days.
  - Preliminary COVID-19 vaccine recommendations [presented at the ACIP meeting](#) (slide 130):
    - Everyone 5 years of age and older is recommended to receive 1 dose of an updated mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech), regardless of prior vaccination history
    - Children 6 months – 4 years of age should complete a multi-dose initial series (2 doses of Moderna or 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine) with at least one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine
    - People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should complete a 3-dose initial series with at least one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, and may receive additional updated vaccine doses
  - The updated COVID-19 vaccine is expected to protect against [currently circulating variants](#) (XBB variants including EG.5 and FL.1.5.1), and virus neutralization studies show that the updated vaccine should also protect against the [BA.2.86](#) variant
  - Last season's bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are [estimated](#) to have reduced the risk of emergency department and urgent care visits, hospitalizations, and critical illness by 50-70% within the first few months after vaccination with vaccine effectiveness (VE) subsequently waning, but protection was durable against critical illness – these VE estimates reflect the additive and incremental benefit of COVID-19 vaccination in populations with a high level of infection-induced and prior vaccine-induced immunity
  - COVID-19 vaccines also [protect against Long-COVID](#) and other Post-COVID Conditions (PCC)
  - Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer recommended or authorized for use
  - An updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is still pending FDA authorization/approval, but will be incorporated into CDC's recommendations when the FDA takes action
  - Providers should recommend and offer updated COVID-19 vaccines to patients during routine clinic appointments and are encouraged to routinely update their COVID-19 vaccine availability on <https://www.vaccines.gov/> for patients to find vaccine locations, including no-cost COVID-19 vaccines available through the federal [Bridge Access Program](#)
- ACIP [recommends](#) adults 60 years of age or older may receive a single dose of an RSV vaccine using shared clinical decision making.
  - Clinical trials estimate vaccine efficacy (VE) of 80-90% for prevention of RSV-related lower respiratory tract infection during the first RSV season after vaccination; longer-term clinical VE trials are ongoing

- It is important for persons with chronic underlying medical conditions and persons who are frail, of advanced age, or who are residents in a long-term care facility to consider and discuss the new RSV vaccines with a provider
- In clinical trials, there was a very rare occurrence of inflammatory neurological events (6 cases reported across clinical trials) and a small number of atrial fibrillation events reported after vaccination, however, it is unclear if these events are related to RSV vaccination, and post-marketing evaluation is being conducted
- ACIP [recommends](#) nirsevimab (preventive RSV monoclonal antibody) for ALL infants under 8 months of age who are born during or entering their first RSV season.
  - Nirsevimab reduces an infant's risk of RSV-related hospitalization by 81% during their first RSV season
  - Nirsevimab is also recommended for infants and children 8-19 months of age who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their 2<sup>nd</sup> RSV season
- ACIP [recommends](#) the updated annual influenza vaccine for all persons 6 months of age or older.
  - Adults 65 years of age or older are recommended to preferentially receive a high-dose, adjuvanted, or recombinant influenza vaccine
  - The vaccine protects against 4 different strains of the influenza virus, and this year's vaccines contain an updated H1N1 virus component
  - [Preliminary data](#) from the 2023 Southern Hemisphere influenza season showed H1N1 virus predominating, and vaccination reduced the risk for influenza-associated hospitalizations by 52%
  - History of an egg allergy alone (regardless of severity of previous reaction to egg) does not necessitate any additional safety measures for influenza vaccination beyond those recommended for all vaccine recipients
- Providers may simultaneously administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations to eligible patients in accordance with immunization general best practice guidelines.
- CDC will host a provider webinar on **Tuesday, 9/19** from **2:00 – 3:00 pm** on "*Preparing for the Upcoming Respiratory Virus Season: Recommendations for Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV Vaccines for Older Adults*" which can be accessed at: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2023/callinfo\\_091923.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2023/callinfo_091923.asp).
- NH public health continues to host monthly clinician webinars on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 12:00 – 1:00 pm to provide important public health updates. The next webinar will occur this **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 1:00 pm** where COVID-19, RSV, and influenza updates will be provided:
  - Webinar link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/94059287404>
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Webinar ID: 940 5928 7404
  - Password: 353809
- Healthcare provider webinar information, including past presentations, can be found at our Infectious Diseases [Healthcare Provider Resources](#) website.

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to [DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov) or visit [www.nhhan.org](http://www.nhhan.org).

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Attachments: None