

Immunization Update

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Pharmacy Forward: Advancing Practice for a
Healthier Tomorrow!

OPA Annual Conference & Trade Show April 9-11, 2026



Disclosure Statement



- Olivia Kinney has served on an advisory board for Pfizer.
and
- All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this/these individual(s) have been mitigated.
and
- None of the planners for this activity have relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.



Learning Objectives

At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

1. identify updates to vaccine recommendations in the United States;
2. differentiate communication strategies for discussing vaccines; and
3. discuss the future landscape of vaccines.



VACCINE UPDATES

2025 Vaccine Headlines

[April New England Journal of Medicine Article](#)
[May Video: HHS Announcement May 2025](#)
[June: ACIP Reconstituted | HHS](#)

[June: Sec. Kennedy's Announcement on X](#)
[June: ACIP Recommendations | CDC](#)
[July: Sec. Kennedy's Announcement on X](#)
[July: AAP suing HHS](#)



SOUNDING BOARD



An Evidence-Based Approach to Covid-19 Vaccination

Authors: Vinay Prasad, M.D., M.P.H., and Martin A. Makary, M.D., M.P.H. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

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Contact: HHS Press Office

202-690-6343

[Submit a Request for Comment](#)

HHS Takes Bold Step to Restore Public Trust in Vaccines by Reconstituting ACIP



Reconstituted ACIP meets and votes to recommend RSV MAB clesrovimab, VFC coverage, annual flu vaccines, and shift to thimerosal-free flu vaccines.

April

FDA announces risk-based framework for COVID-19 vaccines

May

Sec. Kennedy directs ACIP to remove COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for pregnant women & healthy children

June

Sec. Kennedy removed all 17 sitting members of ACIP

Sec. Kennedy appoints 8 new members to ACIP via announcement made on X

July

Liaison Groups removed from ACIP Work Groups; announced on X

AAP initiates legal action against HHS



2025-2026 Vaccine Headlines

[August: Sec. Kennedy's X announcement](#)
[September: APhA Press Release](#)
[September: HHS Press Release on Votes](#)
[October: Key Meeting Delayed](#)
[December: DJT Fact Sheet](#)

[December: ACIP Votes](#)
[January: HHS Acts on Memorandum](#)
[February: ACIP Meeting Postponed](#)
[March: AAP v. RFK Jr et al Ruling](#)

Reconstituted ACIP meets and votes to no longer recommend MMRV; reaffirm universal hep B testing for pregnant women, and move COVID-19 vaccines to "individual decision-making"



President Trump issues memo directing Sec. Kennedy and Acting CDC Director to assess childhood schedule vs. other countries

HHS bypasses ACIP to announced new childhood immunization schedule

Federal Court invalidates ACIP and their votes

Sec. Kennedy revokes all EUAs for COVID-19 vaccines, announced on X

August

September

Oct. - Nov.

December

January

Feb.

March

First pharmacist appointed to ACIP

Government shutdown postpones ACIP



Reconstituted ACIP meets and votes to change hep B to SCDM and recommends testing before subsequent doses

ACIP meeting postponed



Federal Court Ruling

What is the impact?

1. Invalidation of ACIP voting member appointments after June 2026
2. Votes taken by reconstituted ACIP are stayed
3. ACIP meetings are suspended without enough qualified members for a quorum

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER ON
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

MURPHY, J.

“Science,” like law, “is far from a perfect instrument of knowledge.” Carl Sagan, *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* 29 (1997). History is littered with once-universal truths that have since come under scrutiny. Nevertheless, science is still “the best we have.” *Id.*¹



In the absence of ACIP, what guidance do we follow?

Follow ACIP recommendations in place prior to June 2025 and administer vaccines per FDA-approved labeling.

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for children 0-18
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) for adults 19+ and healthcare personnel
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) for immunocompromised
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) for pregnancy



Patient Case #1

A 70 year old patient presents to the pharmacy to pick up his wife's prescription. He does not have any chronic conditions. His vaccine history is shown below. Is he eligible for a second seasonal COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccine	Date
Annual influenza	10/3/2025 (age 69)
PCV20	4/1/2023 (age 67)
Zoster	4/1/2023 (age 67)
COVID-19 (all Pfizer)	9/9/2021 (age 65) 7/13/2022 (age 66) 2/9/2023 (age 66) 10/3/2025 (age 69)

- A. Yes, a second-dose of Pfizer given at least 2 months after previous dose
- B. Yes, a second dose of Pfizer given at least 3 months after previous dose
- C. No, he's ineligible



Patient Case #2

A 53 year old patient presents to the pharmacy. She has diabetes managed with insulin. Is she eligible for a RSV vaccine?

- A. Yes, she's over 50
- B. Yes, she's over 50 with a risk condition
- C. No, she needs to be 60+ to be eligible
- D. No, she's ineligible due to ACIP stayed votes





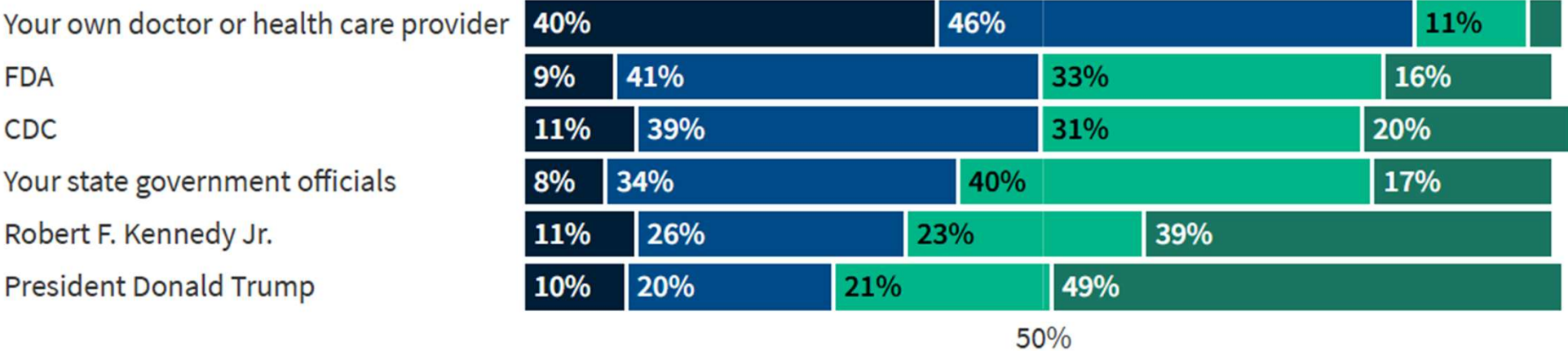
VACCINE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Vaccine Confidence Poll Findings

U.S. Adults Are Most Trusting of Their Own Doctors for Health Information; Fewer Trust Government Health Authorities

How much do you trust each of the following for reliable information about health issues?

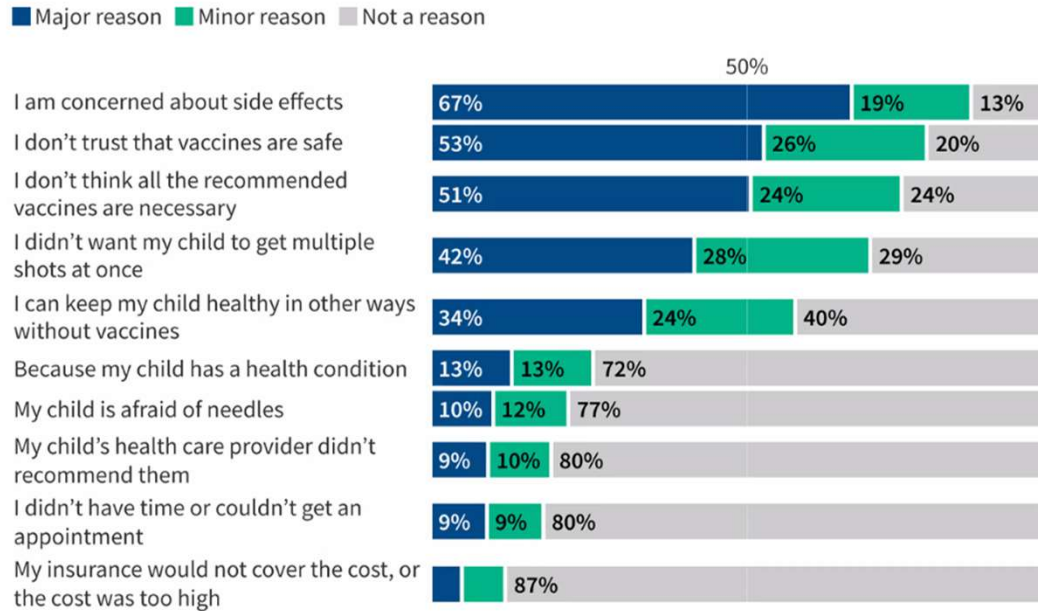
A great deal
 A fair amount
 Not much
 Not at all



Vaccine Confidence Poll Findings

Parents who Skipped Vaccines for Their Children Cite Side Effects, Safety Concerns As Major Reasons

Is each of the following a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason why you delayed or skipped some vaccines for your child or children?



Note: Among the 16% of parents who report skipping or delaying any childhood vaccines for their children. See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF/The Washington Post Survey of Parents (July 18-August 4, 2025)

KFF



Barriers vs. Hesitancy

Barriers (Can't)

Access examples:
transportation,
time off work or
school, cost

Logistic examples:
Language barriers,
lack of universal
vaccine record,
documentation
requirements

Hesitancy (Won't)

Cultural examples:
Belief system,
peer pressure,
perception of
disease severity

Trust examples:
mis- or
disinformation, lack
of provider
recommendation,
safety & efficacy
concerns



Communication Pearls

People want facts, but education alone won't change behaviors or belief.
How you respond matters more than what you say.

Autonomy

After several years of intense vaccine environments, people want more freedom to choose. Affirmation can help.

Benefits

Some patients are motivated by protecting others, and some are motivated by protecting themselves. Choose your strategy.

Verbiage

People don't like to be labeled.

- Hesitant → "You're a person with questions"
- Misinformation → Shift to "inaccurate narratives" or "false research"
- Safe & effective → "Vaccines are the best possible way to defend against disease"

Safety

All people want to make good health decisions. Listen with empathy and curiosity.

[Vaccine uptake and barriers to vaccination among at-risk adult populations in the US - PMC](#)
[Addressing vaccine hesitancy: Clinical guidance for primary care physicians working with parents - PMC](#)
[Vaccine Hesitancy: Contemporary Issues and Historical Background - PMC](#)



Words Matter

Open-ended transition to keep the conversation going:

“That’s interesting, what sources are you using for that info?”

Acknowledge, then pivot:

“We all want what is best for our families. What I’ve learned is...”

“Yes, vaccines have rare side effects, but more benefits. Evidence continues to show they are safer than the disease they prevent.”

Avoid fact tennis and exit gracefully:

“I respect our difference of views. Have a nice day.”



Patient Scenario #3

After recommending a vaccine, your patient says, “I’ve read online that the vaccine isn’t safe, and I’m worried about long-term side effects.”

Which response is best?

- A. “Vaccines are proven safe and effective. I strongly recommend it for you.”
- B. “You’re a person with questions, and that’s great. Misinformation online is rampant.”
- C. “Yes, vaccines can have rare side effects, but I’ve learned the benefits outweigh the risks. I got protected, and recommend it for you, too.”
- D. “I respect your opinion. Have a nice day.”



Patient Scenario #4

A parent of two young children says during a vaccine conversation:
“I just want to make the best decision to keep my kids healthy. They’ve already missed so much school, and I worry about them getting sick.”

Which communication strategy is best for this patient?

- A. Individual benefit strategy: emphasizing how vaccination helps the parent avoid missing work or travel plans
- B. Collectivist benefit strategy: emphasizing protecting their health by preventing serious illness is good for the entire family and school attendance
- C. Safety strategy: focus on data about how rare side effects are
- D. Autonomy strategy: respect their concern and end the conversation





FUTURE LANDSCAPE OF VACCINES

Influenza

After a mismatched season, new flu vaccine strains have been selected.

2025-2026 Flu Vaccine Strains

Egg-based vaccines:

- A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)
- A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)
- B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria)

Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines:

- A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)
- A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (H3N2)
- B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria)

2026-2027 Flu Vaccine Strains

Egg-based vaccines:

- A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)
- A/Darwin/1454/2025 (H3N2)
- B/Tokyo/EIS13-175/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)

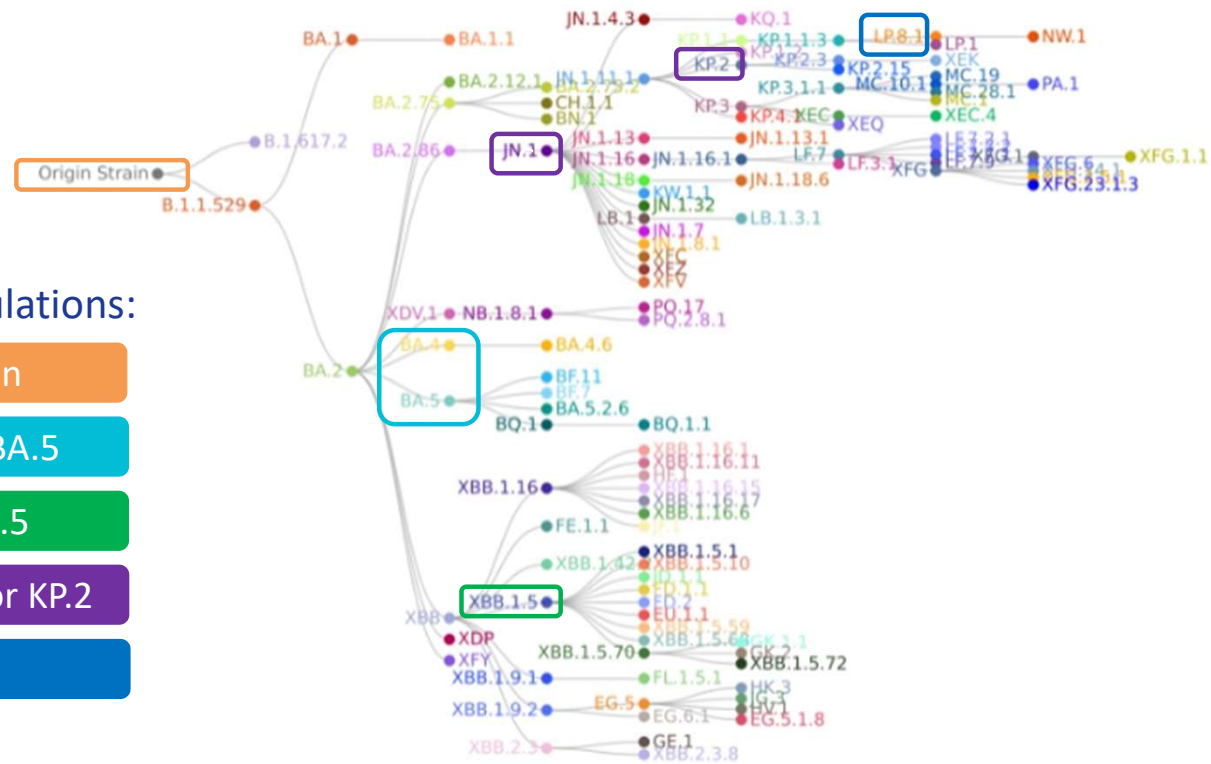
Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines:

- A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)
- A/Darwin/1415/2025 (H3N2)
- B/Pennsylvania/14/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)



COVID-19

A new variant is on the rise, but COVID-19 vaccines remain effective.



U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Formulations:

2020-2021: Origin Wuhan strain

2022: Bivalent Omicron BA.4/BA.5

2023-2024: Monovalent XBB.1.5

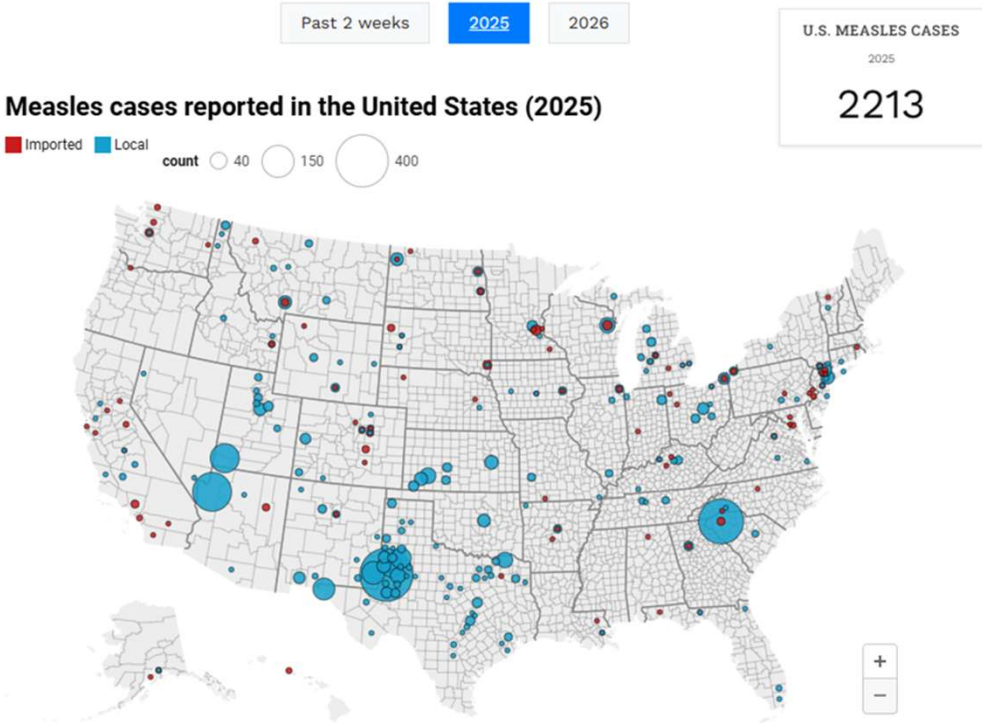
2024-2025: Monovalent JN.1 or KP.2

2025-2026: Monovalent LP.8.1

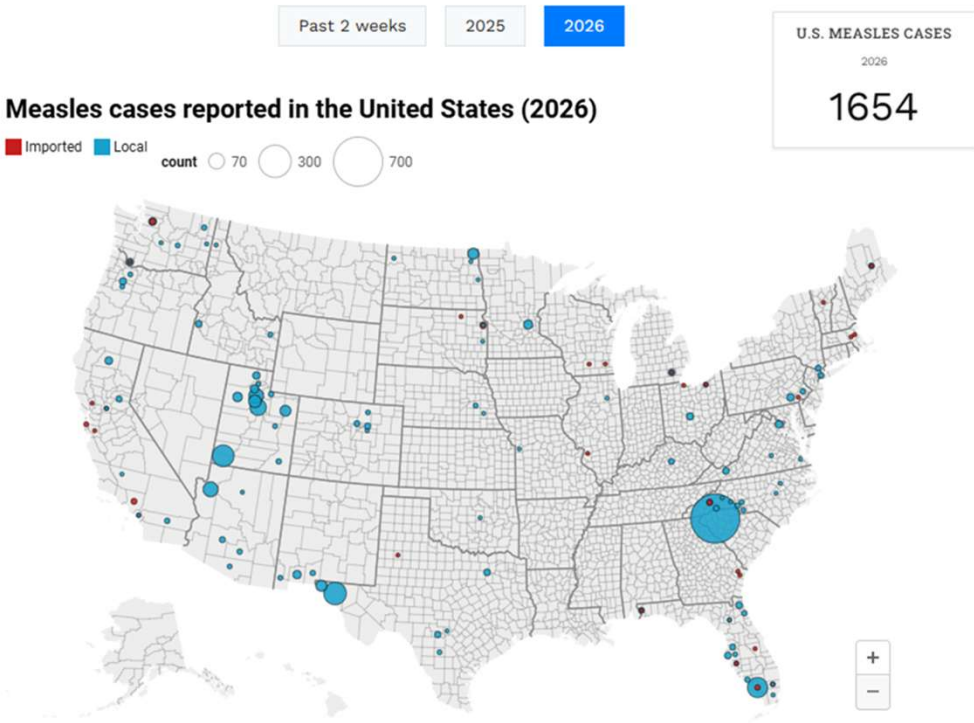


Measles

Will the U.S. maintain elimination status?



Source: Johns Hopkins University

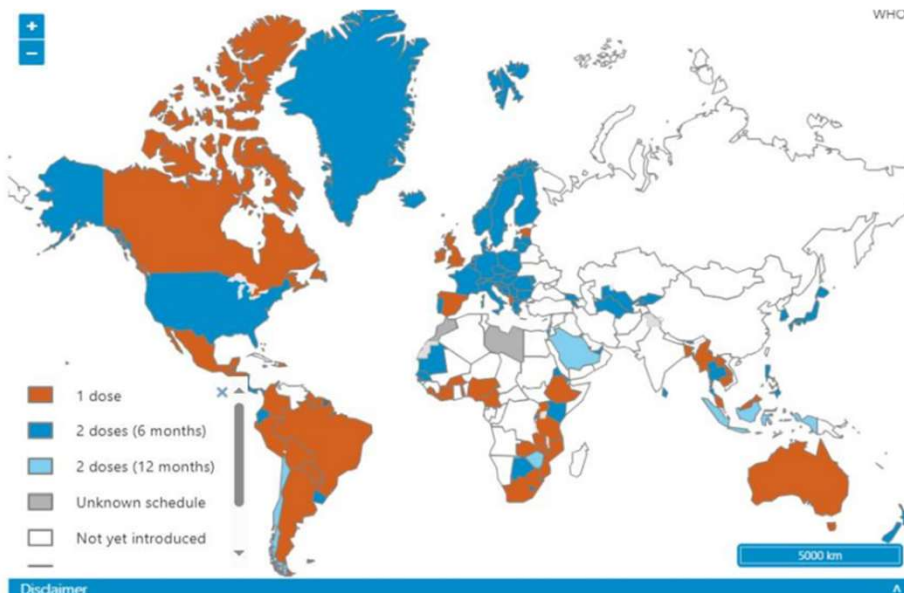


Source: Johns Hopkins University

HPV

Is one dose of human papillomavirus vaccine enough?

Recommended HPV vaccine schedules in 9–14-year-olds by country:



58 countries: 1 dose interval

5 countries: 2 dose interval (12 months apart)

76 countries: 2 dose interval (6 months apart)

50 countries: HPV vaccine not yet introduced

5 countries: unknown HPV vaccine schedule

Disclaimer

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RSV

Will a booster dose be recommended?

- At the June 2024 and October 2024 meetings, ACIP reviewed data and determined a second dose is not yet recommended for adults



Emerging Vaccines

What vaccines are in development?

M Medscape

Emerging Norovirus Vaccines Face Scientific and Policy Hurdles

Researchers are advancing several norovirus vaccine candidates, such as oral tablet-based platforms, mRNA vaccines, and virus-like particle...

1 day ago

B BioPharma Dive

Moderna's combination flu, COVID shot wins over European drug regulators

Moderna's combination flu, COVID shot wins over European drug regulators. In issuing a positive recommendation, the EMA has diverged from the...

1 month ago

NBC News

Pfizer Lyme vaccine shows more than 70% efficacy but misses key statistical goal

There hasn't been an approved Lyme disease vaccine for more than 20 years, after GSK pulled its shot because of a lack of demand.

1 week ago

[Emerging Norovirus Vaccines Face Scientific, Policy Hurdles](#)

[Pfizer and Valneva VALOR Trial Press Release | Pfizer](#)

[Moderna Press Release mCOMBRIAX](#)



Question #5

For the 2026-27 respiratory illness season, how are flu vaccines expected to be formulated?

- A. Trivalent
- B. Quadrivalent
- C. Pentavalent
- D. Hexavalent



Final Thoughts

- Vaccine preventable diseases continue to increase in the U.S. due to confusion, distrust, and declining vaccine rates.
- Vaccine recommendations by the reconstituted ACIP in 2025 have been stayed. Proceed with vaccinating per state laws and regulations.
- Personalize your communication strategy when discussing vaccines to better connect with patients.
- The future of vaccines is innovative and filled with hope for healthier communities.





REFERENCES

All references are cited on individual slides.

Questions?

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