



## I Raise the Rates! August Edition

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In this edition of I Raise the Rates (IRtR), you will find a variety of new resources from several public health partners, educational opportunities, and a brief selection of popular media articles related to immunization.

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### **FDA Approves and Authorizes Updated mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines to Better Protect Against Currently Circulating Variants**

FDA News Release

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved and granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (2024-2025 formula) to include a monovalent (single) component that corresponds to the Omicron variant KP.2 strain of SARS-CoV-2. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been updated with this formula to more closely target currently circulating variants and provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. Today's actions relate to updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc."

#### **What You Need to Know**

- "Unvaccinated individuals 6 months through 4 years of age are eligible to receive three doses of the updated, authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or two doses of the updated, authorized Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine."
- "Individuals 6 months through 4 years of age who have previously been vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to receive one or two doses of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines (timing and number of doses to administer

depends on the previous COVID-19 vaccine received)."

- "Individuals 5 years through 11 years of age regardless of previous vaccination are eligible to receive a single dose of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines; if previously vaccinated, the dose is administered at least 2 months after the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine."
- "Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible to receive a single dose of the updated, approved Comirnaty or the updated, approved Spikevax; if previously vaccinated, the dose is administered at least 2 months since the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine."
- "Additional doses are authorized for certain immunocompromised individuals ages 6 months through 11 years of age as described in the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine fact sheets."

[Read More](#)

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## HHS Launches National Public Education Campaign Ahead of Respiratory Virus Season

HHS

**RISK LESS.  
DO MORE.**  
Get this season's vaccines

"The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a new national campaign today to inform the public about common respiratory viruses and available vaccines. The campaign, [Risk Less. Do More.](#), aims to increase awareness of vaccines that reduce serious illness from influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in high-risk populations and to limit the spread of these viruses among all Americans."

"*Risk Less. Do More.* will deliver research-based messages through paid advertising and media coverage on TV, radio, print, social, digital, and out-of-home platforms. The campaign will reach all audiences, with a particular focus on those at highest risk, including older Americans and people who may have less access to health care information and support,

with facts about life-saving vaccines that can help them avoid severe illness. HHS will also partner with state and local health departments and national, state, and community organizations to ensure all audiences have access to information from sources they trust."

[Full Press Release](#)

[Campaign Homepage](#)

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## Vaccines for Children Program Celebrates 30 Years of Providing Lifesaving Vaccines to Children at No Cost

CDC

"When the Vaccines for Children (VFC) legislation was passed 30 years ago, it was a historic step in improving children's lives by providing recommended vaccines at no cost to eligible children.

Routine vaccinations are the best defense against illnesses. The VFC program was established to ensure that children below the federal poverty level and those without health insurance have access to critical, lifesaving vaccines that can protect their health throughout their lives."

### Highlights

- "Almost 90% of VFC-eligible children born during 2011–2020 received the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, according to a new [CDC Vital Signs](#) report. There were no differences in receipt of the MMR vaccine found among VFC-eligible children born in 2020 by race and ethnicity, poverty status, and urban-rural residency. This highlights VFC program efforts in achieving and maintaining measles elimination status in the U.S."
- "Furthermore, a CDC [report](#), issued on August 8, 2024, found that for children born during 1994–2023, routine childhood vaccinations will have prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths, resulting in societal savings of nearly \$2.7 trillion, including a direct savings of \$540 billion."

"Despite these successes, the new CDC Vital Signs report shows there is still a need to increase the number of children who complete their vaccine

series and a need to reach children living below the poverty level and those without health insurance."

[Read More](#)

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## US to Offer Free COVID Tests in September as Part of Fall Campaign

Reuters

Starting in late September, "U.S. households will be eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). The COVID-19 Tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year" (HHS).

[Read More](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Flu Warriors Festivals 2024

*New Jersey Immunization Network*

It is generally recommended that eligible individuals receive a flu vaccine in September or October of each year, in order to build immunity for the coming flu season.

With that in mind, we encourage you to join NJIN at one of our upcoming Flu Warriors Festivals to receive your annual dose.

All are welcome, regardless of health insurance status or immigration status. However, those with health insurance should bring their insurance card and identification.

For the full event schedule, click the document below or visit

[Immunizenj.org/community-events-2024](https://immunizenj.org/community-events-2024).



## NJIN Community Events Schedule 2024

### Flu Festivals

1. **October 5, 2024** (Sat.)

11:00am-2:00pm

- **Partner:** Saint Joseph's Health
- **Venue:** University Medical Center
- **Address:** 11 Getty Avenue (parking lot outside of Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center Infirmary), Paterson, NJ 07503
- **Vaccines Available:** Influenza

2. **October 8, 2024** (Tues.)

3:00pm-5:30pm

- **Partner:** Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers
- **Venue:** Burlington Center
- **Address:** 651 High St, Burlington, NJ 08016
- **Vaccines Available:** Influenza, COVID-19

3. **October 15, 2024** (Tues.)

8:00am-12:00pm

- **Partner:** Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers
- **Venue:** Katz Dalsey Academy Charter School
- **Address:** 3098 Pleasant St, Camden, NJ 08105
- **Vaccines Available:** Influenza, COVID-19

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## Back to School Best Practices for Disease Surveillance and Prevention for a Healthy School Year

Live Webinar

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30am-10:00am

CME Available

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# BACK TO SCHOOL WEBINAR



**SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**  
**8:30AM-10:00AM EST**

**BEST PRACTICES FOR DISEASE  
SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION  
FOR A HEALTHY SCHOOL YEAR**



**CLICK TO REGISTER**



**Agenda Details to Follow**

## **New Jersey Chapter**

INCORPORATED IN NEW JERSEY

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN



### **Accreditation Statement:**

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Society of New Jersey. New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is accredited by the Medical Society of New Jersey to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### **AMA Designation Statement:**

New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics designates this live internet activity for a maximum of 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### **ABP MOC Part II:**

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn up to 1.5 MOC points in the American Board of Pediatrics' (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABP MOC credit.

# 2024 Adult Immunization Conference

Live Webinar

Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30am-12:30pm

New Jersey Immunization Network  
*presents*

## THE 2024 ADULT IMMUNIZATION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**Register  
Here!**



**JOIN US  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024  
8:30 AM - 12:45 PM**

**Agenda  
Details  
to Follow**



**New Jersey Chapter**

INCORPORATED IN NEW JERSEY

American Academy of Pediatrics  
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