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"AMGA Immunizations Brief"—brought to you by the Rise to Immunize® (RIZE) campaign—delivers vaccine news and updates relevant to healthcare leaders. This brief provides concise, actionable information to help you stay informed and guide patient care in an evolving immunization landscape.

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At a Glance

- Federal health officials unilaterally reduce the number of recommended pediatric immunizations.
- AMGA and leading medical organizations urge evidence-based, transparent U.S. immunization policy.
- Early and severe flu activity continues to rise nationwide, reaching levels not seen in decades.
- CMS to stop requiring states to report childhood vaccination levels.

Detailed Brief

Federal health officials unilaterally reduce the number of recommended pediatric immunizations.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced an [updated pediatric immunization schedule](#) that recommends all children be vaccinated against 11 diseases—down from 17.
- The schedule update also shifts vaccines against hepatitis A, hepatitis B (for infants born to mothers who test negative), rotavirus, meningococcal disease, and influenza from routine recommendation to "shared clinical decision-making."
- CDC now recommends only a single dose of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine instead of two, as it did previously.
- The schedule overhaul was not based on any new data about the safety or efficacy of vaccines. Instead, it was based on an [assessment](#) comparing the United States with "20 peer, developed nations," in accordance with a December [directive](#) from President Trump. As CDC Acting Director, Jim O'Neill accepted the assessment's recommendations, which are set to take effect immediately.
- The pediatric vaccine recommendations from leading specialty societies—including the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#)—remain unchanged.
- Families can still access the full range of childhood immunizations recommended by AAP and AAFP. All vaccines, including those moved to shared clinical decision-making, remain [covered by insurance plans](#) and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Clinicians, hospitals, and states can continue to offer these vaccines at no out-of-pocket cost to patients.

AMGA and leading medical organizations urge evidence-based, transparent U.S. immunization policy.

- In response to changes to the U.S. childhood immunization schedule, [AMGA and more than 70 scientific and medical organizations urged](#) federal health officials to ensure U.S. immunization policy is “guided by a transparent, evidence-based process and grounded in U.S. epidemiology and real-world risk.”
- Officials said the new schedule is meant to bring the U.S. recommendations closer to those in other developed nations, like Denmark. The joint letter explains that “comparisons between the U.S. childhood immunization schedule and those of other countries, including Denmark, risk overlooking fundamental differences in population size, diversity, healthcare access, and infectious disease burden.”
- Additional statements in response to the recommendation changes include:
 - **Medical Organizations:** [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) (AAFP), [American College of Physicians](#) (ACP), [American College of Emergency Physicians](#) (ACEP), [American Medical Association](#) (AMA), and the [Children's Hospital Association](#) (CHA).
 - **Public Health & Infectious Disease Organizations:** [American Public Health Association](#) (APHA), [Families USA](#), [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) (IDSA), and the [Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease](#) (PFID). A [joint statement](#) from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Trust for America's Health (TFAH), and the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) was also released.

Early and severe flu activity continues to rise nationwide, reaching levels not seen in decades.

- [Flu](#) activity is high or very high in [45 states](#) and continues to rise across the country, according to the latest national surveillance data.
- Activity is [elevated and occurring earlier](#) than has been typical in recent years, raising concerns about sustained transmission through late winter.
- Much of this season's activity and severity is being driven by the subclade K variant of influenza A.

CMS to stop requiring states to report childhood vaccination levels.

- States will no longer be required to report how many children they vaccinate to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), according to a [Dec. 30 letter](#) to state health officials.
- Previously, states [reported](#) the share of Medicaid- and Children's Health Insurance Program-covered patients who were immunized as part of CMS' [Core Sets](#)—a set of standardized quality measures used by the agency and states to assess healthcare performance.

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