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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

- HHS announces agenda items for March ACIP meeting and two new committee members.
- ACP says adults at increased risk should get an mRNA-Based COVID-19 vaccine.
- WHO sets 2026-27 flu vaccine strains; U.S. remains engaged despite withdrawal.
- U.S. newborn Hepatitis B vaccination rates on a two-year decline.
- Meeting to determine U.S. measles elimination status pushed to November as disease continues to spread.

Detailed Brief

HHS announces agenda items for March ACIP meeting and two new committee members.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is slated to [discuss](#) COVID-19 vaccine injuries and long COVID-19 during its upcoming Mar. 18-19 meeting.
 - Notably, vaccine injuries fall under the purview of other federal agencies/committees and are not directly within ACIP’s remit.
 - Additionally, [an evidence review](#) found that COVID-19 vaccination has shown “consistent effectiveness and safety” and significantly reduces the risk of severe disease and hospitalization across populations.
- Kennedy [announced](#) the appointment of two new ACIP members: Sean Downing, MD, a primary care physician, and Angelina Farella, MD, a pediatrician. Farella has previously criticized COVID-19 vaccines and called for their removal from the market.

ACP says adults at increased risk should get an mRNA-Based COVID-19 vaccine.

- The American College of Physicians (ACP) [issued](#) updated COVID-19 vaccine practice points for physicians that say adults over age 65 and those aged 18-64 at increased risk for COVID-19 should receive the updated 2025-26 mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.
- ACP also suggests that those aged 18-64 who are not at increased risk for COVID-19 may consider receiving the mRNA-based vaccine.
- ACP did not examine evidence or make recommendations for pregnant women or immunocompromised adults.

WHO sets 2026-27 flu vaccine strains; U.S. remains engaged despite withdrawal.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) [announced](#) (Feb. 27) its recommendation on which flu virus strains should be included in vaccines for the 2026-27 Northern Hemisphere flu season, following a four-day meeting to review global surveillance data.
- This year's meeting took place after the U.S. [formally withdrew](#) from the WHO in January. Despite the withdrawal, CDC staff participated virtually to share surveillance data and technical expertise.

U.S. newborn Hepatitis B vaccination rates on a two-year decline.

- A [study](#) of more than 12.4 million U.S. newborns found that rates of hepatitis B vaccination within 30 days of birth has fallen by more than 10 percentage points in the past two years from 83.5% to 73.2%, following a prior six-year upward trend.

Meeting to determine U.S. measles elimination status pushed to November as disease continues to spread.

- The meeting, hosted by the Pan American Health Organization (a regional office of the World Health Organization), has been [delayed](#) seven months, from its original date in mid-April until sometime in November.
- As of Feb. 27, the U.S. reported [1,194 measles cases](#) in 2026, surpassing half the total measles cases recorded during all of 2025.

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