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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 each week. 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

- Increased risk of neurodevelopmental diagnoses in children whose mothers had a COVID infection—not vaccination—during pregnancy.
- COVID infection raises risk of heart issues in children more than vaccination.
- Flu and COVID infections raise the risk of heart attack or stroke up to five-fold in weeks following initial infection.
- Walgreens is adding COVID-19 data to its respiratory illness index.

Detailed Brief

Increased risk of neurodevelopmental diagnoses in children whose mothers had a COVID infection—not vaccination—during pregnancy.

- The [study](#), recently published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, showed maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy was associated with statistically significant increased risk of adverse neurodevelopmental diagnoses by three years of age (16.3% in exposed vs. 9.7% in unexposed offspring [adjusted odds ratio of 1.29, 95% CI, 1.05–1.57, $P=.01$]).
- Effects were most pronounced after third-trimester exposure and in male offspring.

COVID infection raises risk of heart issues in children more than vaccination.

- The largest-ever [study](#) of its kind, involving nearly 14 million children, has found that the risk of serious, but very rare, side effects involving the heart and blood vessels was much higher after infection than after vaccination.
- Getting a COVID infection for the first time slightly increased the risk of heart inflammation, blood clots, and bleeding disorders among children, whereas being vaccinated against the virus was much safer and sometimes protective.

Flu and COVID infections raise the risk of heart attack or stroke up to five-fold in weeks following initial infection.

- A [meta-analysis](#) published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* also found viruses such as HIV, hepatitis C, and shingles can lead to long-term increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

Walgreens is adding COVID-19 data to its respiratory illness index.

- This [tool](#) aims to create a more comprehensive picture of when and where respiratory viruses are spiking this winter.
- The index will be updated weekly to allow users to search by state to see where their geographic area ranks for both flu and COVID-19 activity.

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