



February 20, 2026

“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.

Check out our newly launched [AMGA Immunizations Hub](#) for critical immunization resources.

For a more in-depth weekly report, sign up for the [Vaccine Intelligence Report](#) from RIZE campaign partner [Vaccinate Your Family](#).

At a Glance

- NIH Director Bhattacharya will serve as Acting CDC Director.
- ACOG has released updated guidance on maternal immunizations.
- Study shows infants given RSV vaccination benefit beyond first RSV season.
- FDA accepts Moderna’s mRNA flu vaccine for review after initial rejection.
- AMA and the Vaccine Integrity Project launch independent vaccine review for the next respiratory season.

Detailed Brief

NIH Director Bhattacharya will serve as Acting CDC Director.

- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, is [taking the role](#) after the previous acting director, Health and Human Services Department Deputy Secretary Jim O’Neill, [exited the department](#).
- Bhattacharya will still run NIH, as well.

ACOG has released updated guidance on maternal immunizations.

- On Feb. 17, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) [released updated guidance](#) on maternal immunizations, underscoring the importance of vaccines in protecting pregnant patients and their infants.
- People who are pregnant during the fall and winter respiratory illness season should receive annual influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. All eligible pregnant patients who meet criteria should receive the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine.
- All pregnant people should receive a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine during each pregnancy, as early as possible in the 27–36 gestational-week window.

- OB/GYNs may recommend other vaccines during pregnancy depending on the patient's age, prior immunizations, comorbidities, and disease risk factors.

Study shows infants given RSV vaccination benefit beyond first RSV season.

- The [study](#), published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, showed 55.3% fewer hospitalizations in the second RSV season among infants who received a dose of Beyfortus during infancy.
- The study also showed a reduction of 85.9% in RSV-related lower respiratory tract infection hospitalizations in the first season.

FDA accepts Moderna's mRNA flu vaccine for review after initial rejection.

- After [rejecting](#) Moderna's application for its mRNA-based seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine earlier this month (Feb. 10), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reversed course this week (Feb. 18), [accepting](#) Moderna's amended application for review following a "Type A" meeting between the agency and the company.
- Moderna's updated filing now seeks full approval for adults ages 50–64 and accelerated approval for adults 65 and older, with a post-marketing study requirement to generate additional evidence in older adults.

AMA and the Vaccine Integrity Project launch independent vaccine review for the next respiratory season.

- The American Medical Association (AMA) and the University of Minnesota's Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) [announced](#) that they will launch an independent, evidence-based review of vaccines ahead of the 2026-27 respiratory virus season.
- The effort will initially focus on influenza, Covid, and RSV vaccines.
- The initiative will be designed to systematically evaluate available data on safety, efficacy, and clinical impact, and will be supported by expert panels, structured evidence assessments, and publicly available summaries.

If you no longer wish to receive the "AMGA Immunizations Brief," please [unsubscribe here](#).