



December 19, 2025

"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

- CDC adopts ACIP hepatitis B vaccine recommendations despite resistance from leading health organizations.
- Measles, influenza, and RSV activity continues to rise across the United States.
- New evidence continues to underscore the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

Detailed Brief

CDC adopts ACIP hepatitis B vaccine recommendations despite resistance from leading health organizations.

- On Dec. 16, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially [signed off](#) on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP's) move away from a universal hepatitis B vaccination recommendation at birth.
- [Federal vaccine guidance](#) now states that infants born to mothers who test positive for hepatitis B should still be vaccinated at birth, but for infants whose mothers test negative, parents should instead discuss with their doctor whether to vaccinate their child. For those who choose to vaccinate, [coverage](#) across all payers will not be affected
- AMGA and leading medical, health, and patient advocacy groups [oppose](#) the revised recommendation.

Measles, influenza, and RSV activity continues to rise across the United States.

- Measles cases continue to climb, with [1,954 cases](#) reported this year.
 - Last week, [Connecticut](#) identified its first case of measles since 2021, and [South Carolina's](#) outbreak has resulted in 303 people in quarantine and 13 in isolation.
 - Yale School of Public Health's Virtual Medical Operations Center (VMOC) creates regular [measles briefs](#) that compile status reports, maps, news articles, and web content into an easily digestible document.
- [CDC data](#) show that influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are rising across the country.
 - Flu is increasing in most regions, with the highest [activity](#) occurring in Colorado, Louisiana, New Jersey, and New York (specifically [New York City](#)).
 - RSV is on the rise in the Southeast, South, and Mid-Atlantic regions, with emergency department visits and hospitalizations increasing among children ages 0-4.

New evidence continues to underscore the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

- A CDC [analysis](#) of 98,000 pediatric cases across nine states exploring the protective effect of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine revealed that vaccination significantly reduced emergency and urgent care visits for preschool- and school-aged children. Vaccine effectiveness was 76% for children ages 9 months to 4 years old and 56% for children and adolescents aged 5-17 years.
- Another [study](#) found that among nearly 20,000 pregnant women who developed COVID-19, those who were vaccinated were less likely to be hospitalized or require critical care than those who were unvaccinated.
- Additional recent [research](#) found that vaccinated individuals had a 74% lower risk of death from severe COVID-19 and a 25% lower risk of death overall, regardless of cause.

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