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"AMGA Immunizations Brief"—brought to you by the Rise to Immunize (RIZE) campaign—delivers vaccines 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

- Delayed availability of COVID-19 vaccine for children covered by Medicaid
- CDC explicitly [recommends](#) shared clinical decision-making for COVID vaccination during pregnancy
- CDC's ACIP announced formation of a new workgroup to review the U.S. childhood and adolescent immunization schedule
- Administration fires ~1,300 CDC employees, then rescinds ~700 terminations
- Important change to vaccine administration reimbursement policies in Medicare Part B fee-for-service
- Senate confirms HHS Assistant Secretary and General Counsel

Detailed Brief

Delayed availability of COVID-19 vaccine for children covered by Medicaid

- U.S. children who are covered by Medicaid are eligible for free vaccines through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.
- States were required to wait for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to formally recommend this year's COVID-19 vaccine for children before ordering COVID-19 vaccines for the VFC program.
- CDC [adopted](#) individual-based decision-making for COVID-19 vaccination in people ages six months and older on Oct. 6.

CDC explicitly recommends shared clinical decision-making for COVID vaccination during pregnancy

- Earlier in October, the COVID-19 recommendation for pregnant patients was denoted by a gray box in the adult immunization schedule, meaning there was "no guidance/not applicable."
- During the September meeting, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously to [recommend "individual-based decision-making"](#) in everyone ages six months and older.
- The committee did not vote specifically on whether the shot should be given during pregnancy, but pregnant women now appear to be covered under the shared decision-making recommendation according to CDC's adult vaccination schedule.

CDC's ACIP announced formation of a new workgroup to review the U.S. childhood and adolescent immunization schedule

- The workgroup will review the safety and efficacy of the existing schedule, including vaccine timing and sequencing, concurrent administration, ingredient safety, and comparisons with schedules used in other countries.
- The rationale for this work group includes considerations such as the use of new vaccine technologies and ingredients, and the rise of vaccine hesitancy.

Administration fires ~1,300 CDC employees, then rescinds ~700 terminations

- Initial firings [impacted offices](#) related to injury prevention, respiratory disease surveillance, and chronic disease.
- Update: Judge [pauses layoffs](#) at more than 30 federal agencies.

Important change to vaccine administration reimbursement policies in Medicare Part B fee-for-service

- As of July 1, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) require modifier 59 “Distinct Procedural Service” be added to the second (or any additional) vaccine administration codes when the COVID-19 vaccine is administered on the same date of service as other Part B vaccines.
- CMS has webpages with [Part B vaccine payment information](#) as well as the [National Correct Coding Initiative](#), which is the source of the policy change.

Senate confirms HHS Assistant Secretary and General Counsel

- The Senate confirmed [more than 100 Trump nominees](#) on Oct. 7.
- The confirmations included Dr. Brian Christine, who will serve as Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary, and Michael Stuart, who will serve as HHS General Counsel.

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