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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 is seeking an expedited appeal in the ACIP vaccine policy lawsuit.
- NIH announced new leadership for two of its centers.
- Growing evidence shows broader benefits of influenza, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines.
- A new study highlights the healthcare burden associated with long COVID-19.
- A new study suggests that flu was much more likely to lead to hospitalization than COVID-19 last winter.

Detailed Brief

HHS is seeking an expedited appeal in the ACIP vaccine policy lawsuit.

- Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced on June 12 that the administration has asked the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals to [expedite](#) its appeal in the ongoing lawsuit brought by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other medical groups over federal vaccine policy changes.
 - AAP [opposed](#) the motion to expedite appeal. On June 16, the court largely [granted](#) HHS' request for an expedited schedule, ordering HHS to file its opening brief by June 17 and AAP to respond within one month (by July 16).
- The appeal seeks to overturn a March [preliminary injunction](#) from U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy, who found that Kennedy's overhaul of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) recommended childhood immunization schedule were likely unlawful.
 - The ruling paused several HHS actions while the case proceeds, including Kennedy's appointment of most new ACIP members, all votes taken by the challenged ACIP panel, and the January 2026 revisions to the recommended childhood immunization schedule.
 - As a result, HHS was required to revert to the [July 2025 childhood immunization schedule](#) while litigation continues.

- However, the injunction does not prevent ACIP from meeting, which AAP highlighted in its [response](#).
- ACIP's June meeting is still [listed](#) on the CDC website, but as of June 17, no Federal Register notice has been issued, making a meeting unlikely. The June meeting is typically important for seasonal vaccine recommendations, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccination ahead of the fall respiratory virus season.

NIH announced new leadership for two of its centers.

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced new leadership for two of its 27 centers: the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Fogarty International Center (FIC).
- John Powers III, MD, has been [appointed](#) Acting Director of NIAID, which is responsible for researching infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. The search for a permanent director remains ongoing.
- Separately, Steven Schiff, MD, PhD, has been [named](#) Director of FIC, which leads NIH's global health research efforts, including international research partnerships and capacity-building programs.
 - Schiff is the first permanent director selected by NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, to lead one of NIH's [24 grantmaking institutes](#).

Growing evidence shows broader benefits of influenza, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines.

- [A study](#) published in *JAMA* found that during the 2024-25 flu season, Californians vaccinated against influenza were 40% less likely to test positive for influenza than unvaccinated people.
 - Among adults 65 and older, those who received an influenza vaccine were 29% less likely to die of influenza-related causes.
- A separate [study](#) published in *JAMA* investigated associations between COVID-19 vaccination and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) among a cohort of American veterans.
 - Researchers found those who received COVID-19 vaccines had a 38% lower risk of COVID-19-related MACE, with the greatest benefit among those 75 years and older, and those with chronic conditions.
 - COVID-19 vaccination was also linked to a nearly 24% reduction in all-cause cardiac events. These findings indicate COVID-19 vaccination could prevent roughly 3,500 major cardiac events and 2,400 deaths annually per 1 million people.
- Another [study](#) published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that shingles vaccination was linked to a lower risk of dementia among older adults in skilled-nursing facilities, supporting past findings from similar studies.

A new study highlights the healthcare burden associated with long COVID-19.

- A [new study](#) from the Netherlands finds that post-COVID-19 condition (PCC), or long COVID-19, is associated with higher healthcare use and costs.
 - Patients with long COVID-19 had about double the average annual primary care costs compared with those with no lingering symptoms after infection and those with no history of COVID-19 infection.
 - Researchers note that vaccination is an effective tool to reduce the risk of developing long COVID-19.

A new study suggests that flu was much more likely to lead to hospitalization than COVID-19 last winter.

- A [new study](#) of nearly 13,000 patients from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicates that the risk of hospitalization was higher for influenza than for COVID-19 this past

respiratory season.

- Researchers attributed the higher severity associated with influenza to a combination of factors, including the increased virulence of circulating influenza strains, mismatch between vaccine composition and dominant circulating influenza variants, and the continued attenuation of COVID-19 severity over successive waves.

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