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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

- An FDA advisory panel backed an mRNA flu vaccine for adults ages 50 and older; the agency also approved expanded use of a new pneumococcal vaccine for higher-risk children and teens.
- New research shows dramatic reductions in cervical cancer deaths among women vaccinated against HPV.
- The SAVRR Council has announced its interim implementation guidance for 2026–27 respiratory season vaccination recommendations.
- Flu outbreak at Air Force base follows shift in Pentagon vaccine policy.

Detailed Brief

An FDA advisory panel backed an mRNA flu vaccine for adults ages 50 and older; the agency also approved expanded use of a new pneumococcal vaccine for higher-risk children and teens.

- On June 18, the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) vaccine advisory committee [endorsed](#) Moderna’s mRNA-based flu vaccine (mRNA-1010) for adults ages 50 and older. The FDA is expected to decide on approval by Aug. 5.
 - In a late-stage clinical trial of more than 40,000 adults, the mRNA vaccine [provided](#) more protection than other licensed flu vaccines. The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) unanimously voted that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks.
 - If approved, the vaccine would be the first mRNA flu vaccine available in the U.S. mRNA vaccines can be developed far faster than traditional flu vaccines, which take several months to develop, and may allow manufacturers to better target circulating strains.
- Separately, the FDA [approved](#) Merck’s pneumococcal vaccine—Pneumococcal 21-valent Conjugate Vaccine (Capvaxine)—for expanded use in children and teenagers at higher risk for serious infections.

- Capvaxive was initially [approved](#) in 2024 for adults ages 18 and older. The expanded approval includes patients ages 2 to 17 with chronic health conditions such as heart, lung, kidney, or liver disease, or diabetes.
- The single-dose vaccine is intended to complement routine childhood immunization against pneumococcal disease, which is recommended for all children by both the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP).

New research shows dramatic reductions in cervical cancer deaths among women vaccinated against HPV.

- A recent [study](#) published in *Lancet* found that girls vaccinated at ages 12–13 against human papillomavirus (HPV) had an almost zero risk of dying from cervical cancer before age 30, with no cervical cancer deaths recorded among vaccinated women ages 20–24 in England between 2020 and 2024.
 - Following the introduction of England's national HPV vaccination program in 2008, researchers estimated that HPV vaccination prevented approximately 200 cervical cancer deaths through 2024. Women who were vaccinated at ages 12–13 experienced the greatest benefit, and the relative risk reduction in even the oldest cohort of vaccinated women, between ages 30–34, was 63%.

The SAVRR Council has announced its interim implementation guidance for 2026–27 respiratory season vaccination recommendations.

- The Summit Adult Vaccine Recommendations Review (SAVRR) Council [recommends](#) healthcare professionals follow 2025–26 influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunization recommendations from relevant professional medical associations for administering 2026–27 vaccines until updated recommendations are released.
- The [SAVRR Council](#) is composed of voting members and observer members representing diverse organizations involved in the delivery of adult and influenza immunizations who convene regularly to discuss recommendations with a focus on challenges related to effective implementation of robust, science-driven recommendations.

Flu outbreak at Air Force base follows shift in Pentagon vaccine policy.

- More than 200 U.S. Air Force trainees at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas have reportedly [contracted flu](#) during an outbreak that has sickened recruits in basic training.
- The outbreak comes less than two months after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth [ended](#) the military's longstanding requirement for U.S. troops to receive an annual flu vaccination.

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