



**June 12, 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.*

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## At a Glance

- An additional study about vaccine safety used in HHS vaccine-related decision-making has been retracted.
- ACOG has released its 2026 maternal immunization schedule.
- New studies add to evidence supporting the benefits of RSV and COVID-19 vaccination.

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## Detailed Brief

### **An additional study about vaccine safety used in HHS vaccine-related decision-making has been retracted.**

- Several studies that have been used by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to support changes to federal immunization policy are facing new scrutiny.
- The *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health* [retracted](#) a 2010 study that claimed boys who received the hepatitis B vaccine in their first month of life had higher odds of an autism diagnosis.
  - The retraction followed an independent statistical review that identified “serious methodological flaws” in the use of National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data.
  - The study had been included in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [rapid review](#) of hepatitis B birth-dose safety presented to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) last September, and it resurfaced in a December ACIP [presentation](#) shortly before the committee voted to move away from the longstanding universal hepatitis B birth-dose recommendation for infants born to mothers who test negative for hepatitis B.
- Two other studies questioning vaccine safety have been removed or placed under investigation in recent months.
  - In April, *Elsevier* [removed](#) a 2021 paper linking vaccination to sudden infant death syndrome after identifying serious methodological flaws related to its use of Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data.

- *Sage Open Medicine* placed a 2020 vaccinated-versus-unvaccinated children study [under investigation](#) in May.

## **ACOG has released its 2026 maternal immunization schedule.**

- The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) has released its [2026 maternal immunization schedule](#).
- The new schedule is endorsed by 13 medical societies and health organizations and marks the first time ACOG has formally released an immunization schedule that differs from federal vaccine recommendations.
- Endorsing organizations include the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

## **New studies add to evidence supporting the benefits of RSV and COVID-19 vaccination.**

- A [new study](#) published in *JAMA* found that maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination was associated with a nearly 70% reduction in RSV-related infant hospitalizations.
- Separately, findings from an [evidence review](#) of COVID-19 vaccination and autoimmune disease show that COVID-19 infection is associated with a higher risk of autoimmune disorders, without finding evidence that vaccination is tied to this risk.
  - Researchers noted that while rare inflammatory reactions following COVID-19 vaccination have been reported, large studies and meta-analyses have found these events to be uncommon.
  - Experts emphasized that COVID-19 infection is more strongly associated with autoimmune complications, inflammatory conditions, cardiovascular events, and blood clots than with vaccination.

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