

# VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) NEWS BULLETIN

**ISSUE 12: DECEMBER 2023**



## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- National Influenza Vaccination Week
- Reminder Recall for Flu & COVID Vaccines
- RSV Prevention Updates
- End of Year Reminders and More!

## **CONTACT CDPH VFC**

VFC Forms, Policies, Program Updates  
[www.chicagohan.org/vfc](http://www.chicagohan.org/vfc)

COVID-19 Vaccine Information  
[www.chicagohan.org/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19-vaccine)

General VFC Inbox  
[ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org)

## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK

December 4 through 8 marks the 2023 National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)! This week serves as a reminder that everyone 6 months and older should be vaccinated against the flu and that it is not too late for your patients to be vaccinated. As of November 27, Chicago's Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report shows that flu activity and flu-associated hospitalizations continue to increase. Vaccination is the best way to prevent serious flu infection and the severe impacts of the respiratory virus season.



Share the images in [this toolkit](#) or use the [CDC's 2023 NIVW Digital Media Toolkit](#) to promote flu vaccines.

## REMINDER RECALL FOR FLU AND COVID VACCINATION

Make sure that all eligible patients who are due for vaccination are aware of the opportunity to get vaccinated and that they are due for a vaccination! Whether it be for a first dose, an additional dose, or for an annual vaccine - let them know. Reaching out to these patients to encourage vaccination helps maximize coverage and protection within our communities.

Reminder/recall is a helpful tool in taking action to communicate and reach patients. Reminders are used to notify patients that immunizations are due soon. Recall is used when immunizations are past due.

I-CARE is a great tool for identifying patients that need vaccinations, either individually using patient shot records or on a population level using reminder/recall reports. I-CARE can also be used to generate custom reminder/recall letters and/or a list of patients that are due for vaccination. For more information on how to utilize reminder/recall functions in I-CARE, please see the [Reminder/Recall Training](#).

# THE 2024 RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES ARE LIVE!



2024 Immunization Schedules are now available and effective immediately.

Reminder: the schedules summarize final recommendations that were previously adopted and made official by the CDC director.

- [Child and Adolescent Recommended Immunization Schedule, 2024](#)
- [Adult Recommended Immunization Schedule, 2024](#)

Recommended vaccine schedules have been updated and are effective immediately. The updated schedules, endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), include policy changes and improved clarity.

This publication comes several months ahead of when updated schedules are usually released. A comprehensive MMWR publication is expected in early 2024. The most notable changes include:

- Changing document headers from “Vaccines” to “Vaccines and Other Immunizing Agents” to cover monoclonal antibodies
- The inclusion of new entries for RSV-mAb(nirsevimab), RSVPreF(Abrysvo), and mpox
- Deletion of outdated or no longer recommended vaccines.
- Updated information for COVID-19, Influenza, Meningococcal, Pneumococcal, and Poliovirus vaccines

Note that the November VFC newsletter highlighted the ACIP vote on Pentavalent meningococcal vaccines and the full guidance is now available on the CDC’s [website](#). Recommendations state that Pfizer’s MenABCWY vaccine may be used for patients 10 years or older **when both MenACWY and MenB are indicated at the same visit**. Healthcare providers should always refer to the full CDC guidance before changing practices and/or administering vaccines.

For the full schedules and detailed recommendations, information visit the [CDC Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) webpage.





## RSV PRODUCT UPDATES

### Ordering Guidance and Program Flexibilities

With a finite number of nirsevimab doses being distributed across the country, we have received a very limited supply of nirsevimab for the remainder of the season.

If you need and are prepared to administer doses, please email [RSVsection@cityofchicago.org](mailto:RSVsection@cityofchicago.org) or leave a note in your orders. Despite the CDC's allowance for bi-directional borrowing of nirsevimab for those VFC providers who maintain private stock for the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season, CDPH will **not** permit this due to the limited private market supply. In line with the CDC allowance for this season, VFC providers will however **not** be required to meet the private inventory requirement for nirsevimab until August 1, 2024.

### Coding

Coding for nirsevimab and/or palivizumab (Synagis) is outlined in the AAP's article on [how to code for RSV immunization](#). These products are not vaccines and are not for the treatment of RSV. The article outlines how to use the CPT codes for administration, counseling, and diagnosis.

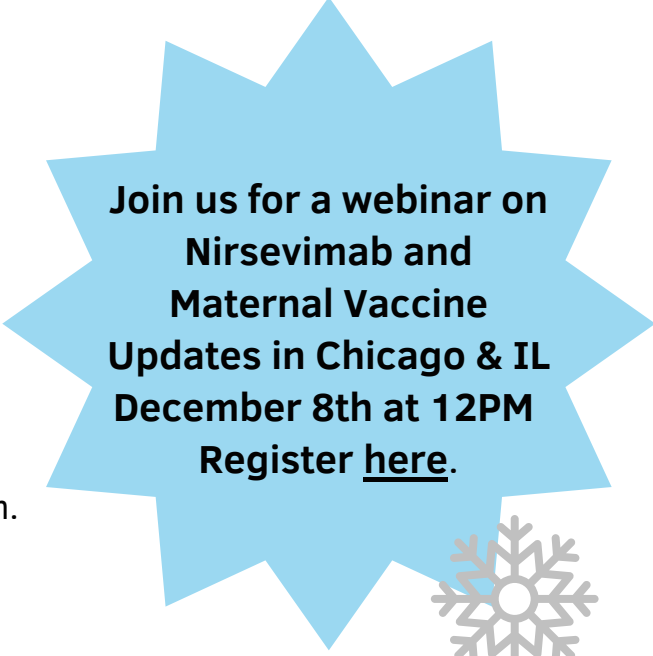
### Other RSV Products

Adult RSV vaccines, Abrysvo and Arexvy, are available to order through the [317 Adult Vaccine program](#). Arexvy and Abrysvo are both recommended for people 60 years and older, while Abrysvo is also licensed and recommended for individuals who are pregnant in their 32nd-36th week of pregnancy. *These vaccines are not approved for infants and should not be administered to that population.*

### Responses to Supply Issues

In a response to the lack of supply of nirsevimab, [US Senators wrote a letter to Sanofi and AstraZeneca](#) urging them to enhance accessibility and asking for transparency in how things happened.

There continues to be concerns and frustrations over the difficulty in accessing this lifesaving product in the midst of another serious RSV season.



**Join us for a webinar on  
Nirsevimab and  
Maternal Vaccine  
Updates in Chicago & IL  
December 8th at 12PM  
Register [here](#).**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Learning Collaboratives w/ ECHO Chicago
  - December 5, 5:30PM
  - December 19, 5:30PM
- 2023/2024 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): Nirsevimab and Maternal Vaccine Updates
  - December 8, 12PM
- A Review of 2023 Vaccine Updates & What to Expect in 2024
  - December 19, 12PM



OR

[CLICK HERE](#) 



## CDPH FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

We host immunization clinics to provide vaccinations for children 0 -18 years old at no out-of-pocket cost. Currently, we serve uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid (Title XIX) insured and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP; also known as Title XXI or state-funded) individuals only. Please ask patients to bring an insurance card (if they have one/are insured) to their appointment. *No one will be turned away.* See upcoming vaccine clinics times below or visit [this website](#).

### Saturday, December 2

- 9AM-2PM: Kennedy King College (6301 S. Halsted Street)

### Tuesday, December 12

- 9AM-2PM: City Hall (121 N La Salle St.)

### Sunday, December 9

- 9AM - 2PM: Malcolm X College (1900 W. Jackson Blvd.)

### Sunday, December 17

- 10AM - 2PM: Swap-O-Rama (4100 S Ashland Ave.)



## END OF YEAR REMINDER

All vaccine orders should be placed by Friday, December 8, 2023 to ensure they are shipped prior to the holidays. Orders will be delivered in the order they are received and shipping will resume on January 3, 2024.

