



October 11, 2024

Dear New York Healthcare Provider,

The 2024-2025 respiratory illness season is quickly approaching and the time for planning to prevent respiratory disease is upon us. Let's Get Immunized New York (LGINY), with over 45 partner organizations, recognizes that as a provider, you are critical in this work. We are reaching out to you for your assistance in promoting vaccination to reduce respiratory disease across New York State (NYS) ahead of, and during, the upcoming respiratory illness season. We are also sharing a number of resources to assist you in promoting respiratory vaccines and improving uptake among your patients.

Similar to the 2023-2024 respiratory illness season, COVID-19, influenza and RSV viruses may be circulating at the same time this season. As in recent years, this could strain an already overwhelmed healthcare system, challenging our ability to provide the best care for all patients.

COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines will be available this fall and winter to help provide protection against these respiratory illnesses. Vaccination is especially important for people who are at higher risk of developing serious complications, including young children, pregnant people, people with weakened immune systems, people with disabilities, and older adults. Vaccination remains one of the safest and most effective protections for reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, long-term health impacts, and even death.

Data reported by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), indicates that:

- Approximately 12 percent of New York residents have received the updated 2023-24 Covid-19 vaccine as of [August 16, 2024](#);
- Influenza cases increased by nearly [20 percent](#) between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons;
- Approximately 20 percent of New Yorkers ages 60 and older received the RSV vaccine as of May 2024

LGINY believes that through our collective efforts across the state, we can improve vaccination uptake and reduce disease, especially for vulnerable populations. We hope that the following resources and information will help you to improve vaccination uptake in your practice during the respiratory season.

Protect Your Patients During the 2024-2025 Respiratory Illness Season

- **Assess a patient's vaccination status** at all clinical encounters and **strongly recommend** all respiratory season vaccines. Your recommendation is one of the most important factors in patients accepting vaccines.
Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/hcp/key-messages.html>
- Utilize **Motivational Interviewing** when encountering a lack of vaccine confidence.
Resource: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy: Live Motivational Interviewing Demonstrations by Boost Oregon. Register for [Vaccine Conversations](#) (November 19, 2024 at 12PM)
- **Utilize prompts** in the electronic health record (EHR) to remind you that vaccines are due.
- For pediatric populations, **add vaccines to your practice's Back-to-School checklist.**
- **Use Vaccine Registries** to assess a patient's immunization status and report all pediatric and adult vaccines to the NYS and NYC vaccine registries (NYSIIS and CIR). Doing so will ensure they are robust and can be effectively used to identify patient vaccine needs and gaps and prevent duplication of vaccination when a patient may have received the vaccine from another provider.
- **Use Standing Orders** to increase vaccine administration.
Resources: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/ and <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services/citywide-immunization-registry-cir.page>
 - NYS Education law allows CPR-certified RNs to execute non-patient specific orders and protocols, ordered by a physician or nurse practitioner, for administering immunizations and certain other tests and treatments.
 - NYS Education law allows immunization-certified, licensed pharmacists to administer CDC-recommended vaccines for adults, influenza vaccine for those aged 2 and older and per the federal PREP Act, COVID-19 vaccines for children age 3 and older, pursuant to a patient-specific order or a non-patient specific order by a physician or nurse practitioner. NYS DOH has issued statewide standing orders for pharmacists for certain vaccines and has template standing orders as available resources for local health departments and other providers.
Resource: https://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/standing_orders.htm
 - The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) provides sample standing orders which can be accessed at: [Standing Orders for Administering Vaccines - Immunization Action Coalition](#). The IAC standing orders need to be modified to conform to the regulations of the NYS Department of Education. We have developed a guidance document describing the modifications that need to be made and a markup of a sample IAC standing order indicating where the suggested modifications should be made, in accordance with the guidance document.
 - [Guidance for Modifying Immunization Action Coalition \(IAC\) Standing Orders in New York State and a Sample IAC Standing Order with Suggested Modifications](#) (PDF)
 - Please ensure that the most up-to-date version of IAC's standing orders are used, and that standing orders are only used for those immunizations for which they are permitted pursuant to NYS Education Law available at <https://www.op.nysed.gov/professions/registered-professional-nursing/laws-rules-regulations/part-64>.
- **Use immunization reminder and recall systems** to identify and notify patients who are behind on immunizations (recall) or due soon (reminder).
Resource: <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/implementing-immunization-administration-in-your-practice/reminder-and-recall-strategies/>
- **Name an Immunization Champion** in your practice to oversee your efforts.

- **Recent webinars:**

- UAlbany's Center for Public Health Continuing Education's webcast series *Public Health Live!*
 - Vaccines During Pregnancy: [Addressing Health Disparities](#) (presented August 14, 2024)
 - Vaccines During Pregnancy: [Recommendations and Benefits for the Pregnant Person and Their Infant](#) (presented July 16, 2024)
 - [Adult Immunization Recommendations and Strategies](#) to Improve Coverage Rates (presented March 29, 2023)
- Preparing for Respiratory Virus Season Webinars created by CDC Partners (all presented August 27, 2024)
 - Pediatrics: [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
 - Older adults: [Gerontological Society of America](#)
 - Obstetrics: [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)
 - General overview: [American Medical Association](#)

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of your patients and for your participation in this important effort to reduce respiratory illness in New York during the upcoming respiratory illness season.

Sincerely,

American Nurses Association – New York
American Society for Meningitis Prevention
Community Pharmacy Association of New York State
Kimberly Coffey Foundation
March of Dimes
Medical Society of the State of New York
New York Chapter American College of Physicians Services
New York State Academy of Family Physicians
New York State Association of County Health Officials
New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists
New York State Public Health Association
Nurse Practitioner Association New York State
Nurses Who Vaccinate

Additional Resources:

CDC RSV Vaccination Recommendation [Update](#) (released June 26, 2024)

- CDC updated its recommendation for the use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines in people ages 60 and older. For this upcoming respiratory virus season, CDC recommends:
 - Everyone ages 75 and older receive the RSV vaccine.
 - People ages 60–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions, such as lung or heart disease, or they live in nursing homes, receive the RSV vaccine.
 - This recommendation is for adults who did not get an RSV vaccine last year. The RSV vaccine is not currently an annual vaccine.

CDC 2024-25 Respiratory Disease Season [Outlook](#)

NYS DOH COVID-19 [Information for Providers](#)

NYS DOH [Adult Immunization Toolkit](#)

NYS DOH Immunization [Provider Training and Education](#)

NYS DOH [Winter 2024 Public Health Toolkit](#)

ACIP Recommendations and Guidelines [website](#)

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines for 2024-25 Season](#): Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

CDC 2024 Healthcare Provider [Toolkit](#): Preparing Your Patients for the Fall and Winter Virus Season

CDC Respiratory Virus [Data Channel Weekly Snapshot](#) (local and national information available)

CDC U.S. [Flu Activity Map](#) (updated weekly)

American Academy of Pediatrics Communicating With Families About How to Protect Against Fall and Winter Respiratory Viruses [website](#)

NYS Academy of Family Physicians [Vaccine Health Hub](#)

American Academy of Family Physicians [Immunizations & Vaccines Resources](#)