
From: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" [b6]
[b6]
Sent: 3/11/2025 7:03:56 AM -0400
To: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: update on rescheduled meeting

Hi Melinda –

Thanks for the update! I'll hold those days.

Take care –

Mary Beth

From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:51 AM
To: Beigel, John (NIH) [E] <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; Clark, Matthew (IHS/AKA/AO) <Matthew.Clark@ihs.gov>; Grimes, George (HRSA) <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER) <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; Ravi, Sanjana (HHS/OASH) <Sanjana.Ravi@hhs.gov>
Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <aji8@cdc.gov>
Subject: update on rescheduled meeting

We are still trying to get the February ACIP meeting rescheduled. April 15-16 has been proposed to HHS. We expect to have a quorum of voting ACIP members for both days of the meeting so do not anticipate that you will have to vote.

If this does end up happening, we hope you will be able to join us.

Thanks,

Melinda

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH

Associate Director for Vaccine Policy

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" [redacted] b6
[redacted] b6
Sent: 2/21/2025 7:03:30 AM -0500
To: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

Hi Melinda -

Thanks for the update and it's good to hear from you! I've been thinking about you all, and was actually going to reach out yesterday before I heard that the meeting was being rescheduled. I haven't received any emails about the ACIP meetings, so am wondering if maybe I was dropped from the distribution group. I am scheduled to be on leave the week of March 10th, but will see what I can do if the meeting lands that week.

Thanks -

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From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 6:34 AM
To: Beigel, John (NIH) [E] <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER) <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; Grimes, George (HRSA) <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; Sharpe-Scott, Kimberly (HHS/OASH) <Kimberly.Sharpe-scott@hhs.gov>
Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <aji8@cdc.gov>; Thomas, Stephanie B. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <hkp4@cdc.gov>
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From: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" [b6]
[b6]
Sent: 2/21/2025 7:28:28 AM -0500
To: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

Thanks for sharing it – no, I didn't get it directly from Stephanie.

From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 7:21 AM
To: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

There have been few communications going out but you should have gotten one yesterday from Stephanie. Did you not get it?

From: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 7:04 AM
To: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

Hi Melinda -

Thanks for the update and it's good to hear from you! I've been thinking about you all, and was actually going to reach out yesterday before I heard that the meeting was being rescheduled. I haven't received any emails about the ACIP meetings, so am wondering if maybe I was dropped from the distribution group. I am scheduled to be on leave the week of March 10th, but will see what I can do if the meeting lands that week.

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Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 6:34 AM

To: Beigel, John (NIH) [E] <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER) <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; Grimes, George (HRSA) <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; Sharpe-Scott, Kimberly (HHS/OASH) <Kimberly.Sharpe-scott@hhs.gov>
Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <aji8@cdc.gov>; Thomas, Stephanie B. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <hkp4@cdc.gov>
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From: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: 3/25/2025 5:37:06 PM -0400

To: "Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS)" <emily.parris@cms.hhs.gov>

CC: "Delone, Sarah (CMS/CMCS)" <Sarah.Delone2@CMS.hhs.gov>; "Weiss, Alice (CMS/CMCS)" <Alice.Weiss@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ghafari, Pascale (CMS/CMCS)" <Pascale.Ghafari@cms.hhs.gov>

BCC:

Subject: Communications Exception Request

Hi Emily –

I'd like to submit a request to participate in CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting that will be held virtually on April 15th & 16th. I am an ex officio member, representing CMS, which means that I answer questions specific to CMS programs. I will not be speaking or making any presentation. Information on the meeting is available here - <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/meetings/index.html>. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks –

Mary Beth

From: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: 3/11/2025 7:27:37 AM -0400
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: update on rescheduled meeting

Thanks! Will keep you posted!

From: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 7:04 AM
To: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: update on rescheduled meeting

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Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <ajj8@cdc.gov>
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" [b6] [b6]
[b6]
Sent: 3/24/2025 5:09:02 PM -0400
To: "Jensen, Kirsten (CMS/CMCS)" <Kirsten.Jensen@cms.hhs.gov>; "Harshman, Sara (CMS/CMCS)" <Sara.Harshman@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: CDC/TX Measles Vaccine Q

Hi Kirsten & Sara –

Hope all is well! I received a measles vaccine coverage Q from TX, through CDC. I'm assuming that this came from a provider, but not positive.

The Q relates to Medicaid reimbursement for a measles vaccine given to a child between 6-11 months due to the outbreak based on a provider recommendation, as that does not align with the current ACIP recommendations. (The only exception for children under 12 months in the current recommendation is for those traveling internationally – see below.)

Since the vaccine is being recommended for younger children during the outbreak, it seems like it should be coverable through medical necessity. However, since that would be based on the state's medical necessity criteria, I'm not sure that we have a way to tell the state that they have to cover it. Do you have other thoughts? Also, have you received any similar Qs?

Here is the current MMR [ACIP recommendation](#):

- Children receive a 2-dose series at age 12–15 months (1st dose) & age 4–6 years (2nd dose).

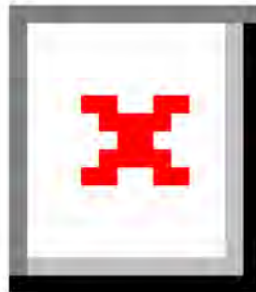
Special situations

- International travel
 - Infants age 6–11 months: 1 dose before departure; revaccinate with 2-dose series at age 12–15 months (12 months for children in high-risk areas) and dose 2 as early as 4 weeks later.

Thanks –

Mary Beth

From: aira@immregistries.org
Sent: 3/31/2025 11:17:31 AM -0400
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: March SnapShots Published & Accepting Content for the June Edition
Attachments: March 2025 SnapShots.pdf



In case you missed it, the March edition of [SnapShots](#) was published last week and is attached to this email!

This quarter's newsletter highlights a variety of articles, including:

- A look at the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) and its role in helping child care centers complete their annual immunization report
- An overview of the Rhode Island Child and Adult Immunization Registry (RICAIR) and the impact of leveraging AIRA's deduplication guides
- A closer look at the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
- A look at the common artificial intelligence (AI) terms and misconceptions in the Tech Corner

The next edition of [SnapShots](#) will be published in June, so if you or a colleague have exciting work to share, we invite you to submit an article for consideration by **Monday, April 14.**

Submitting an article is easy—simply email your content to info@immregistries.org. Please ensure that your submission is relevant to a jurisdiction or includes a jurisdiction as a co-author.

The [2025 SnapShots schedule](#) and previous editions of our quarterly newsletter can be found in the [AIRA Repository](#). Please reach out to Gabriella Wagoner at gwagoner@immregistries.org with any questions.

We look forward to your submission!

From: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: 2/21/2025 6:33:34 AM -0500
To: "Beigel, John (NIH) [E]" <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; "Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER)" <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; "Grimes, George (HRSA)" <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; "Sharpe-Scott, Kimberly (HHS/OASH)" <Kimberly.Sharpe-scott@hhs.gov>
CC: "MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)" <aji8@cdc.gov>; "Thomas, Stephanie B. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)" <hkp4@cdc.gov>
BCC:
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From: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: 2/21/2025 7:21:44 AM -0500
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: FW: FW: ACIP update for ex officio and liaison organization representatives

From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:10 PM
To: Thomas, Stephanie B. (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <hkp4@cdc.gov>
Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <aji8@cdc.gov>
Subject: ACIP update for ex officio and liaison organization representatives

The ACIP meeting scheduled for February 26-28 is being postponed. We are working on rescheduling â€" stay tuned for more information.

Thanks to all of you for your support of our nationâ€™s immunization efforts.

Melinda

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH

Associate Director for Vaccine Policy

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

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From: "Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS)" <emily.parris@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: 3/27/2025 2:08:48 PM -0400
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: Communications Exception Request

Looping back on this. I brought the issue to Juliet and Tara. They are wanting to have a solid justification for your attendance. How does it benefit the Agency to have you attend and how is it in line with the Secretary and Administrator's priorities?

Emily E. Parris, MPP

Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, Children and Adults Health Programs Group

Phone: (530)-933-0164

Note: I may send emails in the evening or on weekends as it works with my schedule. Please know that I do not expect a response at that time.

From: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS) <emily.parris@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Delone, Sarah (CMS/CMCS) <Sarah.Delone2@CMS.hhs.gov>; Weiss, Alice (CMS/CMCS) <Alice.Weiss@cms.hhs.gov>; Ghafari, Pascale (CMS/CMCS) <Pascale.Ghafari@cms.hhs.gov>
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Thanks -

Mary Beth

From: Immunize.org <express@immunize.org>
Sent: 3/5/2025 6:17:29 AM -0500
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: IZ Express #1,802: Child dies of measles, COVID-19 and influenza vaccine effectiveness, and more



Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Issue 1,802: March 5, 2025

Top Stories

- [First U.S. measles death reported since 2015 as outbreaks grow; review and optimize your MMR vaccination practice with resources from Immunize.org](#)
- [Interim Estimates of 2024–2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years—VISION and IVY Networks, September 2024–January 2025](#) published in *MMWR*
- [Interim Estimates of 2024–2025 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness—Four Vaccine Effectiveness Networks, United States, October 2024–February 2025](#) published in *MMWR*
- [Reports of Encephalopathy Among Children with Influenza-Associated Mortality—United States, 2010–11 Through 2024–25 Influenza Seasons](#) published in *MMWR*
- [Trends in Cervical Precancers Identified Through Population-Based Surveillance—Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Impact Monitoring Project, Five Sites, United States, 2008–2022](#) published in *MMWR*
- [Immunize.org updates its Standing Orders for Administering Recombinant Zoster Vaccine \(Shingrix\) to Adults](#) template
- [Influenza continues to hit hard across the country; vaccination protects](#)
- [Journalists interview Immunize.org experts](#)
- [Vaccines in the news](#)

Immunize.org Website and Clinical Resources

- [Spotlight on the website: CDC Resources](#)
- [Recap: Immunize.org updated these clinical resources in January and February](#)
- [Recap: Immunize.org reviews, updates "Ask the Experts: Documenting Vaccination," and adds three new questions](#)
- [Recap: Immunize.org reviews, updates "Ask the Experts: Billing & Reimbursement," and adds a question on Medicaid policies](#)
- [Recap: Immunize.org updates two "Questions and Answers" resources, one for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b \(Hib\) and one for pneumococcus](#)

Featured Resources

- [Updated 65+ Flu Defense website offers resources for healthcare professionals serving older adults](#)
- [While supplies last, order laminated 2025 U.S. immunization schedule booklets from Immunize.org](#)

Notable Publications

- [Georgetown University publishes "H5N1 Influenza Vaccines and the Current Outbreak"](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Virtual: Hepatitis B Foundation and National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable host webinars on preventing liver cancer through vaccination on March 11 at 3:00 p.m. \(ET\) and March 18 at 3:00 p.m. \(ET\)](#)
- [Questions about our website? Register for Immunize.org Website Office Hours March 12 at 4:00 p.m. \(ET\) or March 13 at 12:00 p.m. \(ET\). Previously recorded sessions available online.](#)

Editorial Information

Top Stories

First U.S. measles death reported since 2015 as outbreaks grow; review and optimize your MMR vaccination practice with resources from Immunize.org

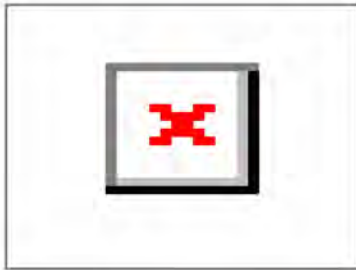
In late February, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported the death of an unvaccinated school-aged child at a hospital in Lubbock, the first United States death from measles since 2015. As of February 28, Texas reports 146 measles cases, with 20 hospitalizations, as a part of the growing outbreak that began in Gaines County, Texas, in late January.

Measles was declared eliminated from the United States in 2000, meaning that the virus does not continuously spread in this country, although outbreaks can happen when the virus is introduced through travel. If measles spreads continuously within the United States for more than 1 year, then the United States will lose its status as a country that has eliminated measles.

CDC updates its 2025 count of measles cases in the United States on its [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) web page each Friday. From January 1 through February 27, 164 measles cases in nine states were reported to CDC. These states include Alaska, California, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, and Texas. Healthcare professionals should prepare to recognize and respond to measles in their practice.

MMR vaccine is the best defense against measles infection. One dose administered after the first birthday is 93% effective in preventing measles infection, and a second dose, which may be administered a minimum of one month later, increases effectiveness to 97%. The vaccine can also prevent or reduce the severity of infection if administered to an unvaccinated person up to 3 days after an exposure.

Immunize®.org offers useful resources to support vaccination providers who offer MMR vaccine, including a standing orders template and other clinical resources to address the questions or concerns of parents and vaccine recipients. See our [Vaccines A–Z: Measles](#) page to find everything we offer to support measles vaccination.



Related Links

- CDC: [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) web page
- CDC: [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#) web section
- Immunize®.org: [Vaccines A–Z Measles](#) main page
- Immunize®.org: [Standing Orders for Administering Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine to Children and Teens](#)
- Immunize®.org: [Standing Orders for Administering Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine to Adults](#)
- AP News: [A Texas Child Who Was Not Vaccinated Has Died of Measles, a First for the U.S. in a Decade](#) (2/26/25)

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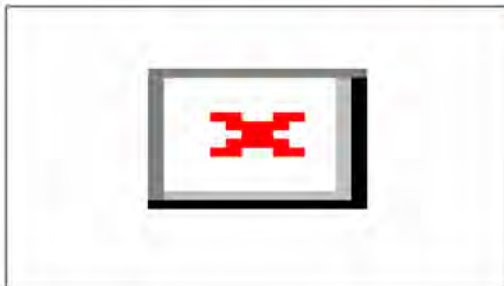
Interim Estimates of 2024–2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years—VISION and IVY Networks, September 2024–January 2025 published in *MMWR*

CDC published [Interim Estimates of 2024–2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years—VISION and IVY Networks, September 2024–January 2025](#) on February 27 in MMWR. A portion of the summary appears below.

Vaccine effectiveness (VE) of 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine was 33% against COVID-19–associated emergency department (ED) or urgent care (UC) visits among adults aged ≥18 years and 45%–46% against hospitalizations among immunocompetent adults aged ≥65 years, compared with not receiving a 2024–2025 vaccine dose. VE against hospitalizations in immunocompromised adults aged ≥65 years was 40%. . . .

These findings indicate that 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination provides additional protection against COVID-19–associated ED/UC encounters and hospitalization, versus no 2024–2025 vaccination and support CDC and ACIP recommendations that all persons aged ≥6 months receive 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination.

Access the MMWR article in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#).



Related Link

- CDC: [MMWR main page](#) providing access to the MMWR family of publications

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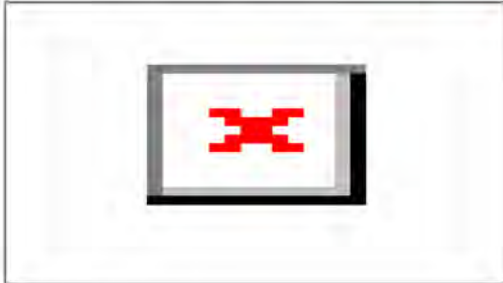
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These interim estimates of 2024–25 VE indicate that influenza vaccination was effective in preventing medically attended influenza-associated illness in children, adolescents, and adults in the United States. Among children and adolescents, VE against medically attended influenza ranged from 32% to 60% in outpatient settings and from 63% to 78% against influenza-associated hospitalization. Among adults, VE against medically attended influenza was 36% and 54% in two outpatient settings and 41% and 55% against influenza-associated hospitalization. Despite increased circulation of influenza A(H3N2) viruses,

which are generally associated with lower VE (3), estimates from this influenza season were consistent with those from the 2023â€“24 season and seasons associated with higher VE over the last 15 years.

Access the MMWR article in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#).



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â€œReports of Encephalopathy Among Children with Influenza-Associated Mortalityâ€“United States, 2010â€“11 Through 2024â€“25 Influenza Seasonsâ€“ published in MMWR

CDC published [Reports of Encephalopathy Among Children with Influenza-Associated Mortalityâ€“United States, 2010â€“11 Through 2024â€“25 Influenza Seasons](#) on February 27 in MMWR. A portion of the summary appears below.

Influenza-associated encephalopathy or encephalitis (IAE), including acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE), is a rare and potentially fatal complication of influenza. No national IAE surveillance exists. . . .

During late January 2025, CDC received anecdotal reports of critically ill children with IAE, including deaths with ANE. Data from the Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance System was investigated and revealed the median proportion of pediatric influenza deaths with IAE during the 2010â€“11 through 2024â€“25 influenza seasons was 9%. IAE was identified in 13% (nine of 68) of deaths during the 2024â€“25 influenza season (through February 8, 2025), including four with ANE. . . .

It is not known whether cases observed in the 2024â€“25 season vary from expected numbers. Clinicians should consider IAE in children with influenza and abnormal neurologic signs or symptoms. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged â‰¥6 months while influenza viruses are circulating.

Access the MMWR article in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#).

Related Link

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“Trends in Cervical Precancers Identified Through Population-Based Surveillance” Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Impact Monitoring Project, Five Sites, United States, 2008–2022” published in MMWR

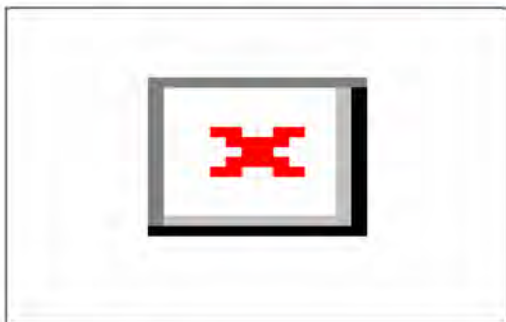
CDC published [Trends in Cervical Precancers Identified Through Population-Based Surveillance” Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Impact Monitoring Project, Five Sites, United States, 2008–2022](#) on February 27 in MMWR. A portion of the summary appears below.

Since 2006, when human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was first recommended in the United States to prevent cancers and other diseases caused by HPV, vaccination coverage has increased, and many young women vaccinated as children or adolescents have become age-eligible for cervical cancer screening. CDC monitors cervical precancer incidence through the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Impact Monitoring Project. . . .

During 2008–2022, cervical precancer incidence decreased 79% and higher-grade precancer incidence decreased 80% among screened women aged 20–24 years, the age group most likely to have been vaccinated. . . .

Observed declines in cervical precancers are consistent with HPV vaccination impact and support Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations to vaccinate children against HPV at age 11–12 years with catch-up through age 26 years.

Access the MMWR article in [HTML](#) or [PDF](#).



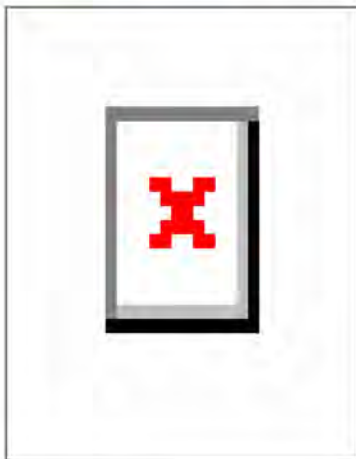
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Immunize.org updates its “Standing Orders for Administering Recombinant Zoster Vaccine (Shingrix) to Adults” template

Immunize®.org updated its [Standing Orders for Administering Recombinant Zoster Vaccine \(Shingrix\) to Adults](#) template to update URLs and formatting.



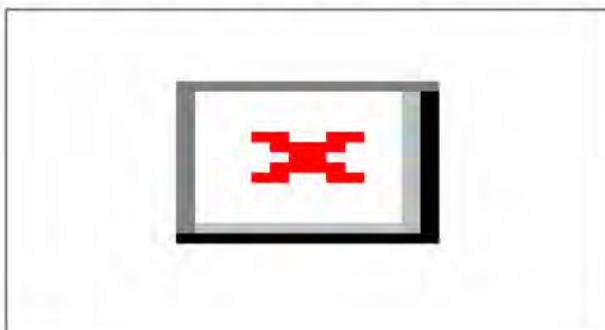
Related Links

- Immunize®.org: [Clinical Resources: Standing Orders Templates](#) main page
- Immunize®.org: [Clinical Resources: Zoster \(Shingles\)](#) main page
- Immunize®.org: [Clinical Resources A-Z](#) main page, where you can filter by topic, vaccine, language, or other criteria

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Influenza continues to hit hard across the country; vaccination protects

For week 8, ending February 22, CDC™'s [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, FluView](#), showed influenza-like illness activity at high to very high levels in 41 of 49 reporting jurisdictions. CDC classified this season as a high-severity season for people of all ages. During week 8, 5.8% of outpatient visits were for influenza-like illness, well above the epidemic threshold of 3.0% for the twelfth consecutive week. Twelve influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 8, bringing the 2024–25 season total to 98 pediatric deaths.



RESP-NET

Visit the CDC [Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network \(RESP-NET\)](#) for weekly reports of hospitalizations due to three vaccine-preventable seasonal respiratory viruses: COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older; RSV vaccination at this point in the season is recommended for certain high-risk adults age 60 through 74 and all adults age 75 years and older. RSV immunization of infants and certain high-risk toddlers with nirsevimab (Beyfortus, Sanofi) is recommended until the end of March.

Influenza Vaccination Dashboard

CDC's [Weekly Flu Vaccination Dashboard](#) shows the latest statistics. Coverage level estimates through February 15 appear below.

- For children age 6 months–17 years, 45.8% of children received a flu vaccination, lower than last season at this time point (50.9%).
- For adults age 18 years and older, 45.3% of adults received a flu vaccination, consistent with last season at this time point.

CDC recommends everyone age 6 months and older get annual influenza vaccination. Given the high levels of circulating influenza across the country, vaccination remains important for all eligible, unvaccinated people.

Identify pharmacies in your area that may offer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines by entering a zip code in the VaccineFinder on [Vaccines.gov](#) or [Vacunas.gov](#).

Related Links

- CDC: [Weekly National Flu Vaccination Dashboard](#) main page
- CDC: [FluView](#) main page
- CDC: [RESP-NET](#) main page
- Immunize.org: [free clinical resources and patient handouts related to influenza](#)
- Immunize.org: [Vaccines A–Z: Influenza](#) main page

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Journalists interview Immunize.org experts

Journalists seek out Immunize.org experts to help explain vaccines to the public and policy makers. We help the media understand and communicate the complex work vaccinators do. Here is a selection of our recent citations.

- CNN: [Disrupted U.S. Vaccine Meetings Could Threaten Timelines, Access and Transparency Around Shots](#) (2/28/25)
- NBC News: [Could Flu Shot Supply Fall Short This Year? FDA's Canceled Meeting Sparks Worries](#) (2/27/25)

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Vaccines in the news

These recent articles convey the potential risks of vaccine-preventable diseases and the importance of vaccination.

- [Washington Post: Rise of Pediatric Flu Cases Is Sending More Children to the Hospital \(3/1/25\)](#)
- [Fox 7 Austin: Measles in Texas: Austin Doctor Speaks on Recent Virus Outbreak \(2/28/25\)](#)
- [New York Times: FDA Cancels Meeting of Vaccine Experts Scheduled to Advise on Flu Shots \(2/26/25\)](#)

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Immunize®.org Website and Clinical Resources

Spotlight on the website: CDC Resources



This week's spotlight features CDC recommendations and resources. These are accessed by selecting the "Official Guidance" menu, then "CDC" among the lefthand choices, then one of the three righthand choices. This area of our website includes:

- The [CDC Recommended Schedules](#) page features official recommended immunization schedules for children, teens, and adults. You can view or download PDF versions of the schedules, or link to download a schedule app for mobile devices.
- The [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#) page provides a list of current and archived ACIP recommendations. Separate tabs display general (not vaccine-specific) or vaccine-specific recommendations. You may filter results to display only current recommendations and you may sort by date. Immunize.org maintains its own collection of PDF copies of ACIP recommendations as published in the *MMWR* to ensure your uninterrupted access. We also link to CDC's online *MMWR* collection.
- The [Additional CDC Resources](#) page offers links to important CDC web pages related to immunization services and public health. You will find links to CDC publications, educational content, reference materials, and contact information.



Additional CDC Resources can also be accessed from their respective [Vaccines A-Z](#) pages. View the right menu on those pages and click on [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#) or [CDC Recommended Schedules](#) to jump directly to their location.

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Recap: Immunize.org updated these clinical resources in January and February

IZ Express regularly provides readers with information about Immunize.org's new and updated educational materials for healthcare professionals and handouts for patients. All Immunize.org materials are free to distribute.

In case you missed them during recent weeks, updates were made to these helpful materials:

Immunize.org Updated Materials for Clinicians

- [Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations](#)
- [Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#)
- [Leading Medical Organizations Endorse Strong School and Childcare Vaccine Requirements and Elimination of Non-Medical Exemptions](#)

Materials supporting vaccine administration:

- Hepatitis B vaccination resources
 - [Standing Orders for Administering Hepatitis B Vaccine Children and Teens](#)
 - [Standing Orders for Administering Hepatitis B Vaccine to Adults](#)
 - [Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccines: Be Sure Your Patients Get the Correct Dose](#)
 - [Hepatitis B and Healthcare Personnel](#)
- [Before You Vaccinate Adults, Consider Their H-A-L-O!](#)
- [Vaccine Administration Record for children and teens; and for adults](#)
- [Quick Chart of Vaccine-Preventable Disease Terms in Multiple Languages](#)
- [Notification of Immunization Letter Template](#)
- Temperature logs, storage and handling resources:
 - [Temperature Logs for Refrigerator Celsius and Fahrenheit](#)
 - [Temperature Logs for Freezer Celsius and Fahrenheit](#)
 - [Checklist for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling](#)
 - [Vaccine Storage Emergency Response Worksheet](#)
 - [Don't Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Storage and Handling!](#)
 - [Supplies You May Need at an Immunization Clinic](#)

Immunize.org Updated Printable Materials for Your Patients

- [Haemophilus Influenzae Type B \(Hib\): Questions and Answers](#)
- [Hepatitis B: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Pneumococcus: Questions and Answers](#)

- [Evidence Shows Vaccines Unrelated to Autism](#)

Immunize®.org Web Pages

- Ask the Experts Vaccine Topics: [Hib \(*Haemophilus influenzae* type b\)](#), [Hepatitis B](#), and [Dengue](#)
- Ask the Experts General Topics: [Billing & Reimbursement](#), [Documenting Vaccination](#), and [Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- Vaccine Confidence & Addressing Concerns: [Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Partner Resources](#)
- New! [Image Library: Mpox Images](#)

Archived Immunize®.org Website Office Hours Webinars

- New! [Website Office Hours: Official Guidance, Part 1 \(CDC, FDA, WHO\)](#)
- New! [Website Office Hours: Official Guidance, Part 2 \(State Resources\)](#)

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Recap: Immunize®.org reviews, updates [Ask the Experts: Documenting Vaccination](#),¹ and adds three new questions

Immunize®.org reviewed the content of its [Ask the Experts: Documenting Vaccination](#) web page, updating answers, including hyperlinks to CDC references that changed during CDC's recent website restructuring program. Three new questions and answers were added:

- What is the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP)?
- Does providing a digital copy of a VIS count, or must we give a paper VIS?
- What is a vaccine EUA fact sheet and when do I use one?

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Recap: Immunize®.org reviews, updates [Ask the Experts: Billing & Reimbursement](#),² and adds a question on Medicaid policies

Immunize®.org reviewed and updated the content of its [Ask the Experts: Billing & Reimbursement](#) web page, updating answers, including CDC website links. The answers reflect current Medicare and Medicaid payment policies.

New questions and answers were added: What vaccines are covered by Medicaid? Does coverage vary by state?

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Recap: Immunize®.org updates two [Questions and Answers](#)³ resources, one for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and one for pneumococcus

Immunize®.org updated two of its "Questions and Answers" resources.

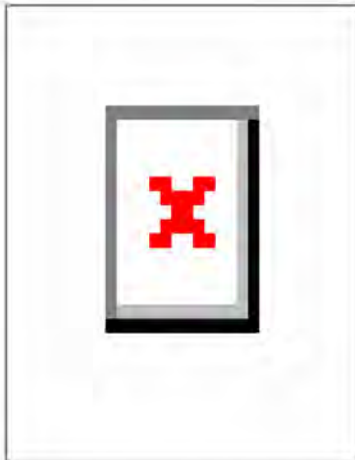
- [Haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\): Questions and Answers](#): Edits update morbidity data and expand information on Hib vaccine safety
- [Pneumococcus: Questions and Answers](#): Edits incorporate PCV21 (Capvaxive, Merck) recommendations and describe CDC's PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor app as a valuable tool to determine pneumococcal vaccine needs based on a person's age, health condition, and vaccination history

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Featured Resources

Updated 65+ Flu Defense website offers resources for healthcare professionals serving older adults

Confident healthcare provider recommendations for influenza vaccine are powerfully persuasive. This influenza season has been a tough one, and it is far from over. To help you maximize patient protection, Immunize®.org, in collaboration with CSL Seqirus, updated the [65+ Flu Defense](#) website.



This helpful site includes information, tools, and tips for communicating with adults age 65 and older about the scope and severity of influenza. Resources include:

- [Influenza in Adults 65+: The Facts](#)
- [Influenza Vaccination: Questions Patients Aged 65 and Older Frequently Ask Their HCP](#)
- [The Importance of Preventing Influenza and COVID-19](#)

Older adults are at increased risk of severe influenza, COVID-19, and RSV illness, including hospitalization and death, especially if they are not up to date on these vaccinations. A clinician recommendation is the most important reason why a patient will get vaccinated.

Check out the updated [65+ Flu Defense](#) website to assist your ongoing efforts in protecting this vulnerable population.

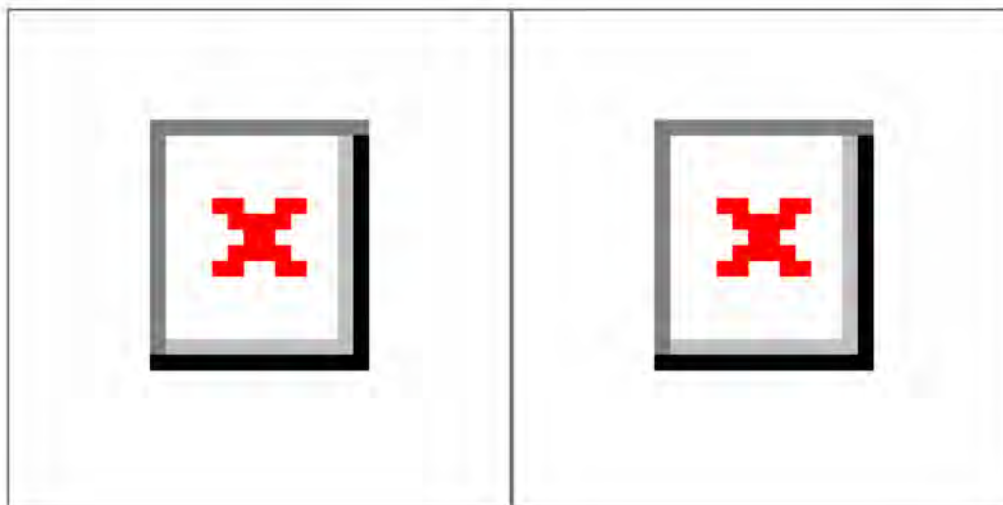
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While supplies last, order laminated 2025 U.S. immunization schedule booklets from Immunize®.org

Laminated booklets of the [2025 U.S. child and adolescent immunization schedule](#) and the [2025 U.S. adult immunization schedule](#) are available now in the Immunize®.org shop.

The schedules are [available online as PDFs from CDC](#) at no cost. Immunize®.org's laminated booklets are ideal for use in any busy healthcare setting where vaccines are given. Features include:

- **Durability:** Their tough coating can be wiped down, and they can stand up to a year's worth of use.
- **Format:** Each schedule is produced in an 8.5" X 11" booklet format; with color coding for easy reading, our laminated schedules replicate the original CDC formatting, including all tables and notes. The adult schedule is 16 pages and the child and adolescent schedule is 20 pages.
- **Easy access to CDC updates:** The CDC online schedule includes an addendum page that will display ACIP's new recommendations as CDC adopts them during 2025. Each Immunize®.org laminated schedule addendum page includes QR codes you can scan to view or print the online addendum page as it is revised.
- **Bonus content:** Both schedules include a bonus page with Immunize®.org's popular 1-page handout summarizing the dose, route, and needle size recommendations for all vaccines and recipients.



Pricing:

Child and Adolescent Booklets

1 copy: \$10.50
2–4 copies: \$10.00 each
5–19 copies: \$9.00 each
20–99 copies: \$8.00 each
100–499 copies: \$6.50 each
500–999 copies: \$5.50 each
1,000–1,999 copies: \$4.50 each
2,000+ copies: \$3.75 each

Adult Booklets

1 copy: \$10.00
2–4 copies: \$9.50 each
5–19 copies: \$8.50 each
20–99 copies: \$7.50 each
100–499 copies: \$6.00 each
500–999 copies: \$5.00 each
1,000–1,999 copies: \$4.00 each
2,000+ copies: \$3.25 each

Visit the [Shop Immunize.org](https://shop.immunize.org): [Laminated Schedules](https://shop.immunize.org/laminated-schedules) web page to view images and order today!

For additional information, call 651-647-9009 or email admininfo@immunize.org.

Related Links

- Immunize.org: [Laminated Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedules \(0–18 years\)](https://shop.immunize.org/laminated-child-and-adolescent-immunization-schedules) web page
- Immunize.org: [Laminated Adult Immunization Schedules \(19 and older\)](https://shop.immunize.org/laminated-adult-immunization-schedules) web page
- Immunize.org: [Shop Immunize.org](https://shop.immunize.org) main page

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Notable Publications

Georgetown University publishes "H5N1 Influenza Vaccines and the Current Outbreak"

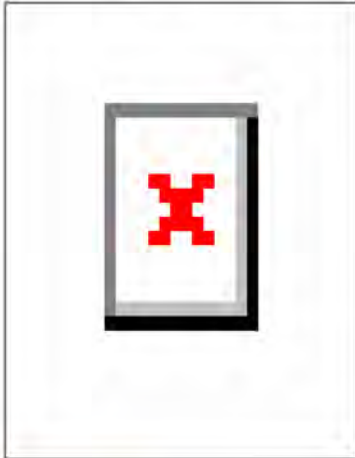
Georgetown University's Global Health Institute published [H5N1 Influenza Vaccines and the Current Outbreak](#). Immunize.org's Dr. Kelly Moore served on the panel that contributed to the meeting and paper. Key points from the summary appear below.

The current H5N1 influenza outbreak represents a challenge to global health security. On November 15, 2024, Georgetown University convened a webinar bringing together 20 experts from epidemiology, virology, vaccine development, regulatory science, and public health, engaging with an online audience of over 200 participants. . . .

This document summarizes gaps identified and recommends specific actions to undertake now to help address them. In addition, three overarching major priorities were identified that demand immediate attention.

- *Resource and implement a Manhattan Project/Operation Warp Speed type initiative . . . to develop and assess . . . H5 and other pandemic influenza vaccines . . .*

- *Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to rebuild trust in and ensure effective delivery of critical public health messages. . . .*
- *H5 pandemic playbooks should be made public, and outgoing and incoming administrations should act together to exercise and test plans at the national, regional and local levels.*



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Upcoming Events

Virtual: Hepatitis B Foundation and National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable host webinars on preventing liver cancer through vaccination on March 11 at 3:00 p.m. (ET) and March 18 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Hepatitis B Foundation, in partnership with the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, will host a webinar titled [Preventing Liver Cancer From Birth with the Hepatitis B Vaccine](#), 3:00â€“4:00 p.m. (ET) on March 11 and 3:00â€“4:00 p.m. (ET) on March 18.

During this 2-part webinar, panelists will discuss how to prevent liver cancer through vaccination. In part one, panelists will discuss the importance of the HepB birth dose, and the burden of hepatitis B before the routine infant recommendation. In part two, panelists will discuss how to speak about vaccines in the current landscape.

[Register for the webinar.](#)



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Questions about our website? Register for Immunize®.org Website Office Hours March 12 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) or March 13 at 12:00 p.m. (ET). Previously recorded sessions available online.

To learn simple tips and tricks for using our website efficiently, please register for our next set of Website Office Hours on [Wednesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. \(ET\)](#) or [Thursday, March 13 at 12:00 p.m. \(ET\)](#). The same content will be covered in both sessions.

We will open each 45-minute session with a short, live demonstration on navigating the following site content: images, webinars, videos, and social media. You can submit questions when you register or live on Zoom during the session.



Register today for Immunize®.org Website Office Hours (content is the same for both):

- [Wednesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. \(ET\)](#)
- [Thursday, March 13 at 12:00 p.m. \(ET\)](#)

The archive of previous Website® Office Hours content is posted at Immunize®.org's [Webinars & Videos](#) page.

[Mark your calendar](#) for future Immunize®.org Website Office Hours.

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For more upcoming events, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

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From: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: 3/11/2025 6:50:43 AM -0400
To: "Beigel, John (NIH) [E]" <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; "Clark, Matthew (IHS/AKA/AO)" <Matthew.Clark@ihs.gov>; "Grimes, George (HRSA)" <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER)" <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; "Ravi, Sanjana (HHS/OASH)" <Sanjana.Ravi@hhs.gov>
CC: "MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)" <aji8@cdc.gov>
BCC:
Subject: update on rescheduled meeting

We are still trying to get the February ACIP meeting rescheduled. April 15-16 has been proposed to HHS. We expect to have a quorum of voting ACIP members for both days of the meeting so do not anticipate that you will have to vote.

If this does end up happening, we hope you will be able to join us.

Thanks,

Melinda

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH

Associate Director for Vaccine Policy

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: "Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS)" <emily.parris@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: 3/31/2025 4:34:53 PM -0400
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: Communications Exception Request

Mary Beth,

Are you able to provide some additional justification for your attendance? I would like to follow up with Juliet and Tara on this issue if you're still looking to attend.

Emily E. Parris, MPP

Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, *Children and Adults Health Programs Group*

Phone: (530)-933-0164

Note: I may send emails in the evening or on weekends as it works with my schedule. Please know that I do not expect a response at that time.

From: Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS)
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 2:09 PM
To: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Communications Exception Request

Looping back on this. I brought the issue to Juliet and Tara. They are wanting to have a solid justification for your attendance. How does it benefit the Agency to have you attend and how is it in line with the Secretary and Administrator's priorities?

Emily E. Parris, MPP

Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, *Children and Adults Health Programs Group*

Phone: (530)-933-0164

Note: I may send emails in the evening or on weekends as it works with my schedule. Please know that I do not expect a response at that time.

From: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Parris, Emily (CMS/CMCS) <emily.parris@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Delone, Sarah (CMS/CMCS) <Sarah.Delone2@CMS.hhs.gov>; Weiss, Alice (CMS/CMCS) <Alice.Weiss@cms.hhs.gov>; Ghafari, Pascale (CMS/CMCS) <Pascale.Ghafari@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Communications Exception Request

Hi Emily –

I'd like to submit a request to participate in CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting that will be held virtually on April 15th & 16th. I am an ex officio member, representing CMS, which means that I answer questions specific to CMS programs. I will not be speaking or making any presentation. Information on the meeting is available here - <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/meetings/index.html>. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks –

Mary Beth

From: "Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD)" <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: 2/21/2025 7:20:51 AM -0500
To: "Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS)" <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
CC:
BCC:
Subject: RE: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

There have been few communications going out but you should have gotten one yesterday from Stephanie. Did you not get it?

From: Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 7:04 AM
To: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: rescheduling ACIP meeting

Hi Melinda -

Thanks for the update and it's good to hear from you! I've been thinking about you all, and was actually going to reach out yesterday before I heard that the meeting was being rescheduled. I haven't received any emails about the ACIP meetings, so am wondering if maybe I was dropped from the distribution group. I am scheduled to be on leave the week of March 10th, but will see what I can do if the meeting lands that week.

Thanks â€"

Mary Beth

From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 6:34 AM
To: Beigel, John (NIH) [E] <jbeigel@niaid.nih.gov>; Kaslow, David (FDA/CBER) <David.Kaslow@fda.hhs.gov>; Hance, Mary Beth (CMS/CMCS) <marybeth.hance@cms.hhs.gov>; Grimes, George (HRSA) <GGrimes@hrsa.gov>; Sharpe-Scott, Kimberly (HHS/OASH) <Kimberly.Sharpe-scott@hhs.gov>
Cc: MacNeil, Jessica R. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <aji8@cdc.gov>; Thomas, Stephanie B. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <hkp4@cdc.gov>
Subject: rescheduling ACIP meeting

I wanted to give all of you a heads up that we are working to find March dates for a rescheduled ACIP meeting. We have not yet heard back from all of our members and it is possible that we will make quorum, but if we don't, we will be relying on you all for

quorum (again â€” a February tradition). The current dates we are looking at are March 10-March 21. No action needed yet, but stay tuned for more information.

Thanks,

Melinda

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH

Associate Director for Vaccine Policy

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention