



Statewide Vaccine Access Initiative Meeting

October 3, 2025

Key Messages

- IL state agencies have been responding to uncertainty and disruption of trusted federal vaccine and other health guidance processes coming from the federal government.
- Governor Pritzker responded by issuing Executive Order 2025-04 creating the Statewide Vaccine Initiative to protect life-saving immunization access for Illinoisians
 - IDPH released its 2025-2026 respiratory vaccine guidance on September 23, 2025, as well as issuing a standing order to ensure COVID-19 access in pharmacies and other health care settings.
- IDPH along with identified partners across all sister state agencies are tasked with scenario planning and implementing the *Statewide Vaccine Initiative*.

The Current State of Public Health

HEALTH

CDC director Susan Monarez is fired and other agency leaders resign

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

The latest COVID vaccines come with new FDA limits

AUGUST 27, 2025 - 3:45 PM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED



Rob Stein

Which states have taken action on COVID-19 vaccine access after FDA, CDC turmoil?



[Mary Walrath-Holdridge](#)

USA TODAY

Updated Sept. 15, 2025, 10:58 a.m. ET

HEALTH

With CDC in chaos, scientists and physicians piece together replacements for agency's lost work

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Public health experts dismayed by RFK Jr.'s defunding of mRNA vaccine research

AUGUST 6, 2025 - 3:18 PM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED



Rob Stein

After Trump's health funding cuts, states face tough budget decisions

Story by Guest Author • 1w • ⌚ 6 min read

HEALTH

CDC departures pose new challenges for leadership. What's next for the agency?



State of Illinois's Vaccine Goals

The State of Illinois should be seen as a credible, trusted source of science-based guidance around vaccines, ensuring access to residents who seek this life-saving protection.

Executive Order 2025-04

Executive Order 2025-04



**All-of-Government
Vaccine Access
Initiative**



**Statewide Standing
Order Within 15
Days**



**Contingency
Planning and
Insurance Coverage**



**Outreach and
Education**

September 2025 Actions & Timeline

September 12:

EO and
Accompanying Press
Release

September 18-19:
ACIP Meeting

September 22:
IDPH IAC Meeting
Convened

September 23-25:
IDPH Fall Respiratory
Guidance with
Accompanying
Standing Order

The Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee: IDPH's Board of Vaccine Experts

- IDPH bolstered its statewide board of vaccine experts to provide credible, transparent, evidence-informed, and science-based vaccine recommendations.
 - Created under 20 ILCS 2305/8.4. Recommendations are non-binding.
- The Immunization Advisory Committee (IAC) now has 20 members and no vacancies.
- Members include experts in pediatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, infectious diseases, nursing, pharmacy, public health practice, and epidemiology.
- IAC convened on September 22 to provide recommendations on the respiratory virus season immunizations (flu, RSV, COVID-19).

Released September 23, 2025

The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued vaccination guidance for the fall respiratory virus season and a standing order for COVID-19 vaccination after receiving recommendations from the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee, examining guidance from medical specialty societies, and reviewing Illinois and national respiratory illness data. The following links provide more information about these actions:

- [Immunization Recommendations for 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season](#)
- [IDPH Issues Fall Vaccine Guidance and COVID-19 Standing Order to Ensure Access for Illinoisans](#)
- [Director Vohra on IDPH Fall Vaccine Guidance](#)
- [Fall Respiratory Virus Season Guidance for Clinicians](#)
- [2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order for Administering Vaccine](#)
- Schedules for other routine child/adult immunizations
 - [Immunization Schedule for Children 0-6 Years](#)
 - [Immunization Schedule for Children 7-18 Years](#)
 - [Immunization Schedule for Adults](#)
 - [Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Health Care Providers](#)
 - [Adult Immunization Schedule for Health Care Providers](#)

Immunization Recommendations

Immunization Recommendations for 2025–2026 Respiratory Virus Season

Age/Condition	Flu	RSV	COVID-19
 Children	All 6 months to 17 years of age	- All infants under the age of 8 months whose mothers did not receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy - Certain children ages 8–19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease	- All children ages 6–23 months - All children ages 2–17 years with at least one risk factor for severe disease including those in special situations* - Children with weakened immune systems - Children whose parents or guardians want them to get a COVID-19 vaccine
 Pregnancy	All	All pregnant people during weeks 32–36 of pregnancy	All, including after delivery and during breastfeeding
 Adults	All 18 years and older	- Adults ages 50–74 years at increased risk of severe RSV disease - All adults ages 75 years and older	All 18 years and older

*Other special situations include: Residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings; Persons who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19; Persons whose household contacts are at high risk for severe COVID-19.

Recomendaciones de vacunación para la temporada de virus respiratorios 2025–2026

Edad/Condición	Gripe	VRS	COVID-19
 Niños	Todos los niños de 6 meses a 17 años de edad	- Todos los bebés menores de 8 meses cuyas madres no recibieron la vacuna contra el VRS durante el embarazo - Ciertos niños de 8 a 19 meses con mayor riesgo de padecer enfermedad grave por VRS	- Todos los niños de 6 a 23 meses - Todos los niños de entre 2 y 17 años con al menos un factor de riesgo de enfermedad grave, incluidos aquellos en situaciones especiales* - Niños con sistemas inmunitarios debilitados - Niños cuyos padres o tutores desean que se vacunen contra la COVID-19
 Embarazo	Todos	Todas las personas embarazadas durante las semanas 32 a 36 del embarazo	Todos, incluso después del parto y durante la lactancia
 Adultos	Todos los 18 años y mayores	- Adultos de 50 a 74 años de edad que tienen un mayor riesgo de padecer enfermedad grave por VRS - Todos los adultos de 75 años o más	Todos los 18 años y mayores

*Otras situaciones especiales incluyen: residentes de centros de atención a largo plazo u otros entornos de congregación; personas que nunca han sido vacunadas contra la COVID-19; personas cuyos contactos domésticos tienen un alto riesgo de contraer COVID-19 grave.

2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order



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2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order for Administering Vaccine

Standing Order and Protocol

Purpose:

To reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, this statewide standing order authorizes qualified health care professionals to administer the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who meet the criteria established by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Authority:

This standing order is issued pursuant to IDPH's Powers and Duties Law, 20 ILCS 2305, which allows the agency to order the administration of vaccines or other treatments as necessary to prevent the probable spread of a contagious and infectious disease. This legal authority extends to IDPH's authority and obligation to restrict and suppress the spread of COVID-19 as a respiratory illness that increases during the fall and winter seasons.

Policy:

This standing order authorizes health care professionals (HCPs) licensed in the State of Illinois who work in pharmacies and other appropriate clinical settings and who are authorized to administer



Statewide Vaccine Access Initiative

State Agency Partnerships

- Partnership with HFS to:
 - Increase enrollment in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program statewide
 - Decrease barriers to childhood and maternal vaccination
 - Recurring vaccine strategy meetings to determine best levers and incentives to increase vaccination rates in the Medicaid population
 - Data sharing to understand impact of policy changes like administration fee rates on vaccine uptake
 - Scenario planning should we lose federal VFC support or federal match for vaccines

State Agency Partnerships

- IDFPR: Clarifying/exploring scope of pharmacist authority under Pharmacy Practice Act and the federal PREP Act to optimize reach of the standing order and ensure meaningful access to vaccinations.
- DOI: Policy teams collaborating to leverage authority over state-regulated plans to ensure access to vaccines.
- DCFS, IDOC, IDJJ, IDVA: Outreach to determine requirements for seasonal vaccines and need for support.
- ISBE & IDEC: Vaccine promotion for all required and recommended childhood vaccines; ongoing analysis of grade-level school vaccination coverage

Short term needs – Access to vaccines

Contingency planning - Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) and Adult Immunization Program (AIP) designated providers cannot procure Covid-19 vaccines through these programs until ACIP recommendations become CDC policy, which has not yet occurred:

- This impacts children on Medicaid, uninsured and underinsured adults, and some clinics are limiting COVID-19 vaccinations for all children until VFC is available
 - This impacts Medicaid eligible children who are high risk and immunosuppressed and have an urgent need for vaccine protection from Covid-19
 - Many VFC providers are also not offering the vaccine to their privately insured children to avoid disparity
- **IDPH is taking steps to procure vaccine for mobile clinics and increased access to vaccines at Local Health Departments (LHDs)**

Needs:

- **Partnering with state agencies to make these points of care more successful**
- **Identifying and addressing barriers to utilization of these services together across the populations we serve**

Short Term Needs – Communications

- IDPH is continuing to develop accessible plain-language FAQs
- IDPH is sharing FAQs and other communications via social media, newsletters, emails.

Needs:

- **Partnering with state agencies to share written communication to specific audiences:**
 - **Early childhood providers, educators, caregivers (IDEC, DCFS)**
 - **K-12 providers, educators, caregivers (ISBE, DJJ, DCFS)**
 - **Congregate care settings (DCFS, IDOC, IDJJ, IDVA, IDHS)**
 - **Communication to public and HHS providers at large (all)**
- **Partnering with state agencies to offer trainings/webinars**

Short Term Needs – Access to Vaccines for Young Children

- **Children ages 3-6:** Not all pharmacists are relying on the PREP Act to offer vaccinations to children ages 3-6 years, so we need to ensure there is ample other access for this age group
- **Children under 3, particularly under 2:** Access to COVID-19 vaccination for children under 3 years of age is limited as they cannot get vaccinated at a pharmacy. Some pediatric clinics, in particular private practices, may not stock COVID-19 vaccine.
 - COVID-19 Vaccine is recommended for all children 6 months – 2 years old.

Needs:

- **Partnering with state agencies serving these ages of children (and their parents) to address access issues**
- **Collaborating to identify the largest barriers to access for these populations, especially in rural areas**

Short Term Needs – Coverage for Vaccines

- IDPH is considering how to cover the cost of vaccines for Medicaid children since COVID-19 VFC vaccines are not available right now
- The executive order issued clarity that there will be coverage of vaccines for state-regulated insurance programs.
- IDPH is hearing that private insurance coverage at a variety of locations across the state is varied/inconsistent.

Needs:

- **Collaborating on how to address the current coverage gaps and concerns for public and private payers**
- **Partnering on communication efforts to decrease confusion related to coverage questions**

Long Term Needs

- **Access to routine vaccines** – IDPH's IAC meeting will meet again in late October/early November to respond to ACIP meeting scheduled for 10/22-10/23. Additional guidance or standing orders may be necessary if routine vaccination schedules are changed.
- **Coverage for routine vaccines** – Continued scenario planning is needed to consider what coverage may be needed beyond the respiratory season.
- Support of policy proposals that will allow for less reliance on ACIP or federal guidance for coverage both for public and private payors.
 - Plan for potential loss of revenue for public payors by diverging from federal guidance (i.e. implications for federal match)

Summary and Next Steps

Areas of action in advance of our next meeting scheduled for 11/7/25:

- **Share existing communications:** Agencies to share existing IDPH communication resources on social media, in newsletters, internally, or in other forms
- **Complete survey:** Agencies to complete IDPH survey regarding barriers to access, coverage confusion, communication needs
- **Develop new communications:** IDPH to develop and share new communication resources as access to vaccines is increased at LHDs and through mobile clinics
- **Participate in a children's working group:** IDPH will form a children's working group from this team to email and/or meet about specific needs related to access and coverage for young children

Questions?

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