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“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

- New research suggests RSV immunization may reduce the risk of invasive pneumococcal disease and adds to evidence supporting the safety of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.
- A new study supports flu vaccination as an upstream strategy to prevent atrial fibrillation and other cardiovascular events.
- CDC nominee Erica Schwartz and ASPR nominee Sean Kaufman have been approved by the Senate HELP Committee.
- The AAP vaccine policy lawsuit moved closer to a First Circuit decision as the Massachusetts District Court pauses.

Detailed Brief

New research suggests RSV immunization may reduce the risk of invasive pneumococcal disease and adds to evidence supporting the safety of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.

- A [new study](#) published in *The Lancet* found that nirsevimab—a monoclonal antibody (mAb) approved to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants—may also reduce the risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD).
 - Researchers found that newborns given nirsevimab were 36% less likely to be hospitalized for an invasive form of pneumococcal disease within six months after immunization.
 - These preliminary findings build on prior [research](#) that found that nirsevimab reduces the risk of RSV-related intensive care admission by 80%.
- A separate [study](#) from the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* found no increased risk of adverse infant outcomes following COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers found no differences across 13 measurable infant outcomes when comparing infants born before the pandemic with those born to individuals vaccinated during pregnancy.

- These findings add to a growing [body of evidence](#) supporting the safety of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.

A new study supports flu vaccination as an upstream strategy to prevent atrial fibrillation and other cardiovascular events.

- A [new study](#) in *European Heart Journal* linked flu vaccines to a reduced risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib) after a mean follow-up period of 2.7 years. Vaccinated patients were also linked to significantly lower risks of myocardial infarction, heart failure, cardiovascular-related hospitalization, and all-cause mortality.

CDC nominee Erica Schwartz and ASPR nominee Sean Kaufman have been approved by the Senate HELP Committee.

- The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) voted on July 30 to [advance the nominations](#) of Erica Schwartz, MD, to lead the CDC, and Sean Kaufman, MPH, CPH, IFBA CP, to lead the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR).
- Each nominee still requires confirmation by the full Senate before taking office.

The AAP vaccine policy lawsuit moved closer to a First Circuit decision as the Massachusetts District Court pauses.

- The federal government filed a [reply brief](#) on July 21 in the [First Circuit Court of Appeals](#) vaccine policy lawsuit brought by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its co-plaintiffs. It argued that the plaintiffs lack standing to challenge the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) appointments and that the appointments are not subject to judicial review. The government has requested an oral argument, but the court has not yet announced whether it will hold a hearing or when it will rule.
 - The [government's appeal](#) is limited to the court's stay of the 13 ACIP appointments. The [pauses](#) to the January 2026 childhood immunization schedule changes and ACIP's prior votes remain in effect irrespective of the appeal.
 - Several groups, including states, public health organizations, and legal scholars, have recently [filed amicus briefs](#) in support of the plaintiffs, urging the appeals court to uphold the district court's preliminary ruling.
- Meanwhile, a separate dispute has developed in the district court over whether the Department of Health & Human Services and the CDC provided complete records documenting how six challenged vaccine policy decisions were made.
 - The plaintiffs [filed a motion](#) on July 17 seeking additional documents related to ACIP's restructuring, changes to the childhood immunization schedule, and recommendations concerning COVID-19, hepatitis B, and thimerosal-containing influenza (flu) vaccines. They argue that the existing records omit information about who influenced the decisions, what evidence was considered, and how ACIP members, agendas, and recommendations were developed.
 - Following a hearing on July 23, U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy [paused](#) the district court proceedings until Sept. 3 to allow time for the First Circuit to rule. The pause delays consideration of the records dispute but does not lift the preliminary injunction, which remains in effect unless modified by the appeals court.
- The First Circuit's decision could determine whether Kennedy may reinstate the challenged ACIP appointees while the broader lawsuit continues. However, the remaining challenges to vaccine recommendations and their development process will still need to be resolved in the district court.

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