

November 6, 2026

"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.

Check out our AMGA Immunizations Hub for critical immunization resources.

For a more in-depth weekly report, sign up for the Vaccine Intelligence Report from RIZE campaign partner Vaccinate Your Family.

At a Glance

- The Air Force restored annual flu immunization requirements for many service members and civilian personnel.
- A new study estimates that approximately 7% of measles cases are initially misdiagnosed.
- Research finds that a rotavirus vaccine recommendation change may raise costs and increase adverse outcomes.
- New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin report measles-associated deaths amid a growing outbreak.
- Respiratory illness rates are steadily increasing across the country.

Detailed Brief

The Air Force restored annual flu immunization requirements for many service members and civilian personnel.

- In an Oct. 20 memo, the Air Force restored annual influenza immunization requirements for broad categories of service members and civilian personnel, partially reversing an April Pentagon policy that made the vaccine voluntary for most military and civilian personnel.
  - Vaccination is now required for recruits and training populations, deployed and deploying forces, healthcare personnel, certain child and youth services staff, and other mission-critical or high-risk groups.
- The Air Force said the requirements are intended to preserve force readiness, prevent illness, reduce lost duty days, and support mission execution.
  - Service members may request medical or religious accommodations, and civilians in covered positions must be vaccinated as a condition of employment.
- The move follows a flu outbreak earlier this year at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, which resulted in more than 280 flu infections and one death.
  - The outbreak prompted the military services to begin restoring flu immunization requirements for recruits, and the Navy and Marine Corps later expanded requirements

to additional groups including healthcare, childcare, and deploying personnel.

A new study estimates that approximately 7% of measles cases are initially misdiagnosed.

- According to a new study published in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, an estimated 6.9% of patients with measles who sought medical care were misdiagnosed at least once in the two weeks before receiving an accurate diagnosis.
- While the findings suggest these errors are uncommon, the authors note the need to consider early measles testing among patients with respiratory symptoms, given measles' high transmissibility and increased risk in community and clinical settings.
    - Outpatient settings, like doctor's offices, accounted for 81% of missed cases, while emergency departments made up 14% and inpatient settings just 3.9%.
    - Factors associated with misdiagnosis included patients who received respiratory antibiotic prescriptions and those who were under two years old.

Research finds that a rotavirus vaccine recommendation change may raise costs and increase adverse outcomes.

- A study published in *JAMA Network Open* found switching from routine to shared clinical decision-making for rotavirus vaccination could increase healthcare costs by $34.5 million in the U.S. by the time children reach age two.
- The study estimated that a 10%–30% reduction in vaccination rates could lead to 1,500–4,500 more hospital stays and 4,400–13,200 additional emergency department visits.

New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin report measles-associated deaths amid a growing outbreak.

- The U.S. has recorded three measles-associated deaths this week, and 5,051 cases of measles have been reported nationally in 2026, including an increase of 497 cases between Oct. 16 and Oct. 30.
- A child in Lewis County, New York, has died in connection with the state's ongoing measles outbreak, representing the first known measles-associated death in New York in more than 30 years.
    - The death follows Governor Kathy Hochul's declaration of a State Disaster Emergency on Oct. 5 in response to growing measles activity.
- An unvaccinated resident of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, was diagnosed with measles and died, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- An infant in Wisconsin has died from Measles, the third recorded death this week and first such death in the state in 36 years.

Respiratory illness rates are steadily increasing across the country.

- As of Oct. 28, flu infections were growing or likely growing in 39 states, COVID-19 infections were growing or likely growing in 22 states, and RSV infections were growing or likely growing in 31 states.
- As of Oct. 30, national seasonal flu activity was low but increasing, national COVID-19 activity was moderate (with overall acute respiratory illness remaining very low), and national RSV activity was low but increasing.
    - The CDC notes that flu activity is higher than typically observed at this time of year, with at least 1 million illnesses, 16,000 hospitalizations, and 900 deaths attributed to the virus so far this season.

If you no longer wish to receive the "*AMGA Immunizations Brief*," please unsubscribe here.