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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

- Updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available for the fall respiratory season.
- Leading medical societies have released updated respiratory immunization recommendations following the release of comprehensive new evidence reviews.
- New research adds to evidence on the benefits of HPV vaccination for men and boys.
- New studies link recombinant shingles and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination to lower risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes.
- GSK advances seasonal mRNA flu vaccine to Phase III.

Detailed Brief

Updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available for the fall respiratory season.

- Following the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) approval of [updated COVID-19 vaccines](#) on Aug. 27, manufacturers Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Novavax-Sanofi have begun distributing COVID-19 vaccines to pharmacies and facilities nationwide. Additionally, updated influenza vaccines are becoming available.
 - Notably, this respiratory season will provide real-world data on the performance of Moderna’s mFlusiva, the first FDA-approved mRNA flu vaccine, which was [approved](#) in early August for adults 50 and older.
- On Sept. 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [interim clinical considerations](#) for the 2026-2027 season, stating that because of ongoing legal uncertainties, the seasonal flu vaccination recommendations included in the July 2025 immunization schedule remain in effect.
 - The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) typically votes annually on recommendations for updated COVID-19 vaccines, but [has not yet issued](#) updated recommendations for this respiratory season.

- The lack of a federal recommendation could affect how COVID-19 vaccines are offered in some states, especially where pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines is tied to CDC recommendations or other federal guidance.
- Major insurers have broadly [pledged](#) to continue covering COVID-19 vaccines without cost-sharing through 2027, and Medicare and Medicaid are [expected](#) to cover them.

Leading medical societies have released updated respiratory immunization recommendations following the release of comprehensive new evidence reviews.

- Leading medical societies released updated respiratory immunization recommendations on Sept. 2, while the Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) published updated evidence reviews supporting COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization ahead of the 2026–2027 respiratory virus season.
- VIP's [systematic reviews](#)—which were conducted in collaboration with the American Medical Association (AMA)—found that COVID-19, flu, and RSV immunizations continue to reduce severe outcomes across populations and maintain reassuring safety profiles.
- In alignment with these evidence reviews, major medical societies issued population-specific respiratory immunization guidance.
 - [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP): children (0-18 years)
 - [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) (AAFP): adults (19+ years) and healthcare personnel*
 - [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) (ACOG): pregnant individuals
 - [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) (IDSA): immunocompromised individuals
 - *IDSA also supported development of guidance for healthcare personnel.
- AMA also published [consolidated respiratory immunization recommendations](#), aligned with evidence and guidance across the medical societies and VIP.

New research adds to evidence on the benefits of HPV vaccination for men and boys.

- Recently published research adds to the growing body of evidence on the benefits of HPV vaccination for men and boys.
 - In a [study](#) published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, gay and bisexual men between ages 16-26 who received the HPV vaccine before age 23 were 60% less likely to experience anal HPV infections caused by the strains covered in the vaccine.
 - A [study](#) published in *The Lancet* found that HPV vaccination in Japan prevented 92% of persistent anal and genital HPV infections with the most common strains of HPV and 73% caused by less common strains, with a topline efficacy estimate of 79%.
 - Additionally, a [review](#) of 21 studies published from 2007 to 2024 found that HPV vaccination significantly lowers the risk of penile HPV infections and oral HPV infections.

New studies link recombinant shingles and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination to lower risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes.

- [New research](#) published in *Nature Medicine* found that the recombinant shingles vaccine is linked to significantly lower risk of heart attack and stroke compared to the live attenuated vaccine.
 - Researchers used the health records of approximately 73,000 people to compare the incidence of cardiovascular events, including heart attack and stroke, between those who received the live attenuated shingles vaccine, Zostavax, and the newer standard recombinant Shingrix vaccine.
 - Vaccination with Shingrix was associated with an overall 9% decrease in cardiovascular burden over seven years. The association was significant for ischemic heart disease, heart failure, ischemic stroke in males, and atrial fibrillation.
- Separately, a retrospective cohort [study](#) of more than 4 million people aged 16-25 found that vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was associated with a lower risk of

myocarditis, pericarditis, and death.

- While myocarditis is rare after both COVID-19 vaccination and infection, recorded incidences of myocarditis are more frequent after infection in an unvaccinated individual than after vaccination.

GSK advances seasonal mRNA flu vaccine to Phase III.

- On Sept. 1, GSK announced plans to [advance](#) its mRNA seasonal flu vaccine candidate to phase III following positive phase II data.
- The trial is expected to begin this month. If it is successful and the product is approved, this would be the second mRNA flu vaccine available on the market, following the recent approval of Moderna's product.

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