



Nationally,
Respiratory Illness
 Causing people to seek healthcare is



February 2025 Edition

Respiratory illnesses and hospitalizations are surging across the country. As you all know, hospitals are seeing an increase in admissions due to influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rates of COVID-19 and pertussis are also rising in parts of the country.

Utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Respiratory Illness Data Channel](#) to view your community's snapshot and receive information on influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Pertussis trends can be found on the [Nationally Notifiable Infectious Diseases and Conditions database](#).

Nationwide status of respiratory illnesses is as follows:

Influenza: Influenza illness activity is high or very high among nearly all states, and emergency department visits are high and increasing. Additionally, if you need more information on the current avian influenza outbreak, visit the [CDC's website](#).

RSV: RSV activity is very high, particularly among children, and hospitalizations are elevated among older adults in some locations.

COVID-19: COVID-19 activity is also increasing, and across the country, there is an elevated presence of the virus in wastewater samples. The CDC predicts activity will continue to increase throughout the winter.

Pertussis: Pertussis cases appear to be returning to elevated pre-pandemic levels, with more than 10,000+ cases typically reported each year. In 2024, more than 35,000 cases were reported—nearly five times more than 2023 cases.

Pneumonia: While there are no weekly trend reports for pneumonia, we want to emphasize the severity of this respiratory illness. The CDC recently posted the [Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) with updated pneumococcal vaccination recommendation information.

Continue to vaccinate patients for all necessary respiratory illness vaccines to prevent infection and severe cases of disease. Thank you to each of you for your hard work to keep your communities healthy!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact RiseToImmunize@amga.org with questions or for support.

Best,
 - The RIZE Team

Webinar Preview

"Adapting to Shifting Immunization Recommendations"



The February campaign webinar will feature [Alix Schnibben, PharmD, BCACP, CTTS](#), from Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG). Dr. Schnibben serves as the director of quality and ambulatory pharmacy services at NGPG, and she is a member of the American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence. She leads NGPG's immunization initiatives, including their streamlined process for operationalizing new vaccines or updated recommendations.

[Join us](#) on Feb. 20 to hear Dr. Schnibben discuss how NGPG adapts to shifting adult immunization recommendations.



Upcoming Dates

Feb. 20 – Monthly campaign webinar: “Adapting to Shifting Immunization Recommendations” at 2 pm ET ([Register](#))

Mar. 20 – Monthly campaign webinar: “Operationalizing CDC’s 2025 Adult Immunization Schedule” at 2 pm ET ([Register](#))

Mar. 26–29 – AMGA’s 2025 Annual Conference in Texas ([Learn More](#))

- **Mar. 27** – Poster Session in the Hub, featuring the RIZE poster from 5:30 – 6:30 pm CT
- **Mar. 29** – “RIZE Meet & Greet Breakfast” at 7 am CT, location TBD



Campaign Spotlight

Join the RIZE team for breakfast at [AMGA’s 2025 Annual Conference](#) (AC25) in March! We will be hosting the “RIZE Meet & Greet Breakfast” on Mar. 29. The breakfast is a great way to meet and network with your fellow campaign participants. This breakfast is hosted by Pfizer, Inc. to encourage peer-to-peer learning and is only open to representatives from AMGA medical groups and health systems. Those who attend will receive a free RIZE-branded notebook! Take the time to fuel up with breakfast before another great day at AC25! Breakfast will begin at 7 am – the location will be announced closer to the conference. We hope to see you there.



Resource of the Month

A new RIZE Cast, “[Creating a Pathway to Adjudicate Medicare Part D Vaccines In-House](#),” is now available! The video features Tristan Sadowski, Geisinger’s Assistant Director, Geisinger Pharmacy Retail and Mail Order. Throughout the interview Tristan discusses his organization’s approach to administering Medicare Part D Vaccines in office. He also shares more about the pathway Geisinger created to adjudicate Medicare Part D vaccines within their health system. The video is a great resource to utilize if your organization needs some pointers on how to implement a similar process.



AMGA Foundation - Rise to Immunize® Campaign

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