



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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Local Public Health Recommends Vaccines for Winter Virus Season

XENIA, OHIO – Public Health officials at Greene County Public Health (GCPH) continue to take steps to remind citizens that it's never too late to make their health a priority and stay on top of all recommended vaccinations for the winter virus season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and GCPH all recommend the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines, the updated 2024-2025 flu vaccines, and the RSV vaccine to protect against severe illness this winter.

Melissa Howell, Health Commissioner at Greene County Public Health, stated, "We're seeing all three viruses remain very active throughout Greene County at this time, even though it is relatively low. We just want everyone to be as healthy as possible during the holiday season while spending time with friends and loved ones". Receiving COVID-19, RSV, and flu vaccines at the same visit is safe. Data continue to show the importance of vaccination to protect against severe outcomes of COVID-19, RSV, and flu, including hospitalization and death. In 2023, more than 916,300 people were hospitalized due to COVID-19, and more than 75,500 people died from COVID-19. During the 2023-2024 flu season, more than 44,900 people are estimated to have died from flu complications. According to the CDC, in the United States, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections cause an estimated 58,000–80,000 hospitalizations among children aged <5 years and 60,000–160,000 hospitalizations among adults aged ≥65 years each year. RSV epidemics in the U.S. typically follow seasonal patterns, peaking in December or January.

Updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation

CDC recommends that **everyone ages 6 months and older receive an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 this fall and winter, whether they have ever previously been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

The virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, is always changing and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time. Receiving an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine can restore and enhance protection against the virus variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. COVID-19 vaccination also reduces the chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID, which can develop during or following acute infection and last for an extended duration.

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Last season, people who received a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine saw greater protection against illness and hospitalization than those who did not. To date, hundreds of millions of people have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine under the most intense vaccine safety monitoring in United States history.

Updated 2024-2025 Flu Vaccine Recommendation

CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions, receive an updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine to reduce the risk of influenza and its potentially serious complications this fall and winter. CDC encourages **providers to begin their influenza vaccination planning efforts now and to vaccinate patients as indicated once 2024-2025 influenza vaccines become available.**

Most people need only one dose of the flu vaccine each season. While the CDC recommends flu vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating, September and October remain the best times for most people to get vaccinated. Flu vaccination in July and August is not recommended for most people, but there are several considerations regarding vaccination during those months for specific groups:

- Pregnant people who are in their third trimester can get a flu vaccine in July or August to protect their babies from flu after birth when they are too young to get vaccinated.
- Children [who need two doses](#) of the flu vaccine should get their first dose of vaccine as soon as it becomes available. The second dose should be given at least four weeks after the first.
- If there is no other opportunity to vaccinate children during July or August, vaccination can be considered for children who have healthcare visits during those months.
- For adults (especially those 65 years old and older) and pregnant people in the first and second trimesters, vaccination in July and August should be avoided unless it won't be possible to vaccinate in September or October.

Updated 2024-2025 flu vaccines will all be trivalent and will protect against an H1N1, H3N2, and a B/Victoria lineage virus. Compared to last, the composition of this season's vaccine has been updated with a new [influenza A\(H3N2\) virus](#).

RSV Vaccine Recommendation

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that infects the lungs but can also affect the nose and throat. It spreads in the fall and winter along with other respiratory viruses, like flu and COVID-19. It usually peaks in December and January.

RSV symptoms make it difficult to distinguish it from the common cold or other respiratory viruses (like the flu

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or COVID-19). Most people who get RSV will only have mild illness, but it can be very dangerous for babies, young children, and adults 60 and older.

RSV can also cause more severe infections, such as bronchiolitis (an inflammation of the small airways in the lungs) and pneumonia (an infection of the lungs). It is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children younger than 1 year of age.

Vaccines are recommended to protect against RSV.

- Vaccine to protect adults aged 60 years and older from severe RSV.
- There are two immunizations recommended to protect infants from severe RSV: a maternal RSV vaccine (Pfizer's ABRYSV0) given during pregnancy or an RSV antibody given to infants after birth.

For more information on updated COVID-19 vaccines, visit: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#). For more information on updated flu vaccines, visit: [Seasonal Flu Vaccines | CDC](#). For more information on the RSV vaccine, visit: [RSV Vaccines | RSV | CDC](#)

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