

Immunization Glossary*

*This is not an exhaustive list of respiratory immunizations. For more information, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and talk to your healthcare provider.

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)¹

There are two types of vaccines used to help protect against whooping cough, both of which are combined with other vaccines that protect against other infectious diseases:

- **Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines** – For babies and children younger than 7 years old.
- **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccines** – For older children and adults.

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE²

There are two types of vaccines used to help protect against pneumococcal disease.

Recommendations for which vaccine an individual should receive are based on age group and past pneumococcal vaccine history:

- **Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs, specifically PCV15 and PCV20)**
- **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)**

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)³

RSV vaccines are recommended for adults ages 60 years and older to reduce the risk of illness.

For infants, either maternal **RSV vaccination** during pregnancy or infant immunization with **RSV monoclonal antibody (nirsevimab)** is recommended. Most infants will not need both.

INFLUENZA (FLU)⁴

Flu vaccines are recommended for most individuals 6 months and older on an annual basis, starting in the early fall.

There are several vaccine options available to help protect against flu, but individuals only need one each year. Each vaccine is designed to protect against different flu viruses, with specific formulations tailored to enhance immune responses in various age groups.

For the 2023–2024 respiratory season, all flu vaccines protect against four strains of the flu.

VACCINE TYPE

Inactivated Flu Vaccine

Made with inactivated virus grown in eggs.

Cell-Based Flu Vaccine

Made with inactivated virus grown in cell culture.

Recombinant Flu Vaccine

Egg-free option that contains three times the amount of antigen to create a stronger immune response.

High Dose Flu Vaccine

Contains four times the amount of antigen to create a stronger immune response.

Adjuvanted Flu Vaccine

Made with an ingredient that helps to create a stronger immune response.

Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine

Made with weakened, live flu virus.

RECOMMENDED FOR

Individuals ages 6 months and older.

Individuals ages 65 years and older.

Individuals ages 2–49.

Not recommended for pregnant or immunocompromised individuals.

COVID-19⁵

There are two types of COVID-19 vaccine options available and recommended for most individuals ages 6 months and older:

- **Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine** – Contains a synthetic version of the COVID-19 virus to create an immune response.
- **Protein subunit vaccine** – Contains fragments of the COVID-19 virus to create an immune response.

The COVID-19 vaccine was last updated in Fall 2023.