Immunization Glossary*

*This is not an exhaustive list of respiratory immunizations. For more information, please visit 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 DISEASE[2]

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, PCV20 and PCV21)**
- **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)**

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)[3]

RSV vaccines are recommended for adults 75 years and older and for adults 60-74 years who are increased risk for severe RSV disease.

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 2024-2025 respiratory season, all flu vaccines protect against three strains of the flu.

VACCINE TYPE		RECOMMENDED FOR
Inactivated Flu Vaccine	Made with inactivated virus grown in eggs.	Individuals ages 6 months and older.
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.	Individuals ages 65 years and older.
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.	Individuals ages 2-49. ***Not recommended*** *for pregnant or immunocompromised individuals.*

COVID-19[5]

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 genetic material that teaches the body how to create an immune response.
- **Protein subunit vaccine** – Contains fragments of the COVID-19 virus to create an immune response.

1. https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/vaccines/index.html 2. https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccines/index.html 3. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/index.html
4. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/rr/rr7305a1.htm 5. https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/how-they-work.html

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UPDATED: 09/2024