

Weekly Vaccine Digest 10/6

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Below are the LACDPH weekly vaccine administration and order updates, upcoming webinars, and newsworthy events. Attached to this email you will find a pdf version of this digest and the links shared during the CDPH Office Hours. To view the CDPH recording and slides please visit <https://eziz.org/>. Bridge Access Program COVID vaccine inventory supply remains extremely limited. Please order small quantities and you can order on a weekly basis. Orders will be reduced or rejected based on our available inventory.

If you received this email and would like to be added to our listserv, please contact our COVID-19 Provider Vaccine Call Center at covidvaccinereq@ph.lacounty.gov

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Order and Administration Reminders

- **REMINDER:** Please place all State General Flu (SGF) orders in myCAVax by 5pm on Monday, 10/9. See [Ordering and Distribution Cadence Calendar](#) for more information. Please note that DPH is also filling SGF orders through local fulfillment.
- **REMINDER:** Please place all BAP orders in myCAVax by 5 pm on Monday, 10/9. CDPH has distributed additional doses to support provider requests. When inventory becomes limited, orders may be cancelled or reduced.
- Order a 1-2 week supply of vaccine for flu and BAP and order weekly as necessary.
- Vaccine delivered from the DPH warehouse will be delivered 3-7 business days after the order is place in myCAVax. Please present a photo ID (work badge, school ID, driver's license, etc.) and sign for the delivery when received. **REMINDER:** Job aid for Vaccine and Clinic Eligibility by Funding Source can be found [here](#).
- **REMINDER: Due to scheduled system maintenance, CAIR2 will be unavailable on Sunday, October 8, 2023, from 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM PT.**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- **NEW:** Visit CDPH's new Respiratory Virus webpage [here](#).
- **NEW:** Find RSV Immunization Resources [here](#)
- Clinical Guidance: RSV Immunizations
 - 2023 CDC Immunization Schedules Update

- CDC Immunization Schedules typically updated in February
- New addenda summarize recommendations adopted in 2023 for COVID19, RSV, poliovirus, and influenza:
 - Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2023
 - Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, United States, 2023
- By publishing updated official schedules now, CDC reduces the time between new recommendations and insurance coverage for the new recommendations, as required by the Affordable Care Act.
- RSV Immunization Products Overview
 - Infants and Toddlers
 - One dose of nirsevimab is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months of age who are born during —or entering — their first RSV season
 - One dose of nirsevimab is recommended for infants 8 through 19 months of age who are at higher risk of severe disease shortly before, or during, their second RSV season.
 - Pregnant People
 - RSV vaccine administered between 32 – 36 weeks of pregnancy, between September-January
 - Older Adults
 - Adults 60 years and older may be eligible for an RSV vaccine, under shared clinical decision making with their health care provider

New Immunizations to Protect Against Severe RSV			
	Who Does It Protect?	Type of Product	Is It for Everyone in Group?
	Adults 60 and over	RSV vaccine	Talk to your doctor first
	Babies	RSV antibody given to baby	All infants entering or born during RSV season. Small group of older babies for second season.
		OR	
	Babies	RSV vaccine given during pregnancy	Can get if you are 32–36 weeks pregnant during September–January
www.cdc.gov/rsv 			

- RSV Vaccines Approved for Adults Ages ≥ 60 Years Single dose, Intramuscular Injection Infants and Toddlers

RSVPreF3 (AREXVY™, GSK)

- 120ug RSVpreF3
- Adjuvant: AS01E[^]
- 83% reduction in risk of RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease*

RSVPreF (ABRYSVOTM, Pfizer)

- 60ug each of RSVpreF A and RSVpreF B
- No adjuvant
- 86% reduction in risk of RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease* with ≥3 symptoms

*Lower respiratory tract disease signs/symptoms include cough, sputum, and difficulty breathing.

[^]Similar to adjuvant used for Shingrix (half dose of same components)

- RSV Vaccines for Older Adults: Safety

Frequency of Adverse Event	RSVPreF3 (AREXVY™, GSK)	RSVPreF (ABRYSVOTM, Pfizer)
Pain at injection site	61%	11%
Fatigue	34%	16%
Myalgia	29%	10%
Headache	27%	13%
Arthralgia	18%	<i>Not reported</i>

Serious adverse events under monitoring:

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome & other immune-mediated demyelinating conditions
 - Supraventricular arrhythmias
- Older Adult RSV Vaccine Recommendations
 - Adults aged 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, using shared clinical decision-making.
 - Give as early as vaccine supply becomes available and continue to offer vaccination to eligible adults who remain unvaccinated.
 - Co-administration of RSV vaccines with other adult vaccines during the same visit is a recommended option.
 - Shared Clinical Decision-Making Guidance can be found [here](#).
 - RSV Immunizations to Protect Infants & Toddlers
 - CDC Recommends RSV Vaccine for Pregnant People
 - RSV vaccine (RSVpreF, ABRYSVOTM) is recommended for pregnant people at 32 through 36 weeks of pregnancy during the months of September through January to prevent RSV infections in their infants.
 - People can receive the RSV vaccine on the same day as other vaccines recommended during pregnancy, including Tdap, COVID-19, and influenza.
 - Most infants will likely only need protection from either the prenatal RSV vaccine or infant immunization, but not both.

- Healthcare providers of pregnant people should provide information on both products and consider patient preferences when determining whether to vaccinate the pregnant patient.
 - RSV Immunization for Infants and Toddlers
 - [An RSV immunization](#) called nirsevimab (Beyfortus™) can help protect infants and toddlers from severe RSV illness.
 - The antibodies in nirsevimab are just like those that develop after a typical vaccine.
 - RSV immunization is recommended for:
 - All infants aged < 8 months born during or entering their first RSV season, including those recommended by the AAP to receive palivizumab.
 - Infants and children aged 8-19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season, including those recommended by AAP to receive palivizumab
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Nirsevimab: Dosing and Timing of Administration

- Dose depends on age and weight
- Infants born shortly before and during the RSV season should receive nirsevimab within the first week of life, including in hospital settings.
- Offer nirsevimab now, as soon as supplies become available.
- Protection is expected to last at least 5 months, about the length of an RSV season
- Co-administration of nirsevimab with other routine pediatric vaccines during the same visit is a recommended option
- The Nirsevimab Guide can be found [here](#).
- Nirsevimab: 8 -19-Month-Old High-Risk Eligibility Criteria
 - Chronic lung disease (CLD) of prematurity who required medical support at any time during the 6 months (steroids, diuretics, oxygen) before the start of RSV season.
 - Severe immunocompromise
 - Cystic fibrosis who have either 1) severe lung disease or 2) weight for length.
 - American Indian and Alaska Native children (this group is newly recommended in contrast to current palivizumab recommendations).
 - Detailed information on palivizumab eligibility can be found in [AAP Red Book](#) and the [2014 guidance for palivizumab for RSV prophylaxis](#).
- Nirsevimab: Frequently Asked Questions can be found [here](#).
- Efficacy of RSV Immunizations to Protect Infants

Product	Age	Reduction in RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD)	Reduction in severe RSV-associated LRTD
Abrysvo™ Vaccine given at 32-36 weeks of pregnancy	Infants ≤90 days old	34.7%	91.1%
Abrysvo™ Vaccine given at 32-36 weeks of pregnancy	Infants ≤180 days old	57.3%	76.5%
Beyfortus™ (Nirsevimab)	Infants ≤ 150 days old	79%	80.6%

*lower respiratory tract disease signs/symptoms include cough, sputum and difficulty breathing

- RSV Immunization Safety
 - Prenatal RSV Vaccine
 - In the clinical trials, the side effects most often reported by pregnant people were pain at the injection site, headache, muscle pain, and nausea.
 - Pre-eclampsia occurred in 1.8% of pregnant people who received the RSV vaccine compared to 1.4% of pregnant people who received a placebo.
 - The clinical trials identified a small increase in the number of preterm births in vaccinated pregnant people. It is not clear if this is a true safety problem related to RSV vaccine or if this occurred for reasons unrelated to vaccination.
 - Nirsevimab
 - Side effects after nirsevimab were uncommon in clinical trials. The most common side effects are pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site, and a rash. No serious allergic reactions occurred in the clinical trials
- Reporting Adverse Events
 - Report adverse events following vaccination to [VAERS](#)
 - Nirsevimab considerations:
 - Report side effects that happen after getting nirsevimab to the MedWatch [website](#) or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.
 - If a child also received any vaccine on the same day as nirsevimab, the side effects also may be reported to VAERS.
- RSV Vaccine Insurance Coverage
 - RSV Vaccine Covered by Medi-Cal & Medicare Part D
 - Currently covered only as a pharmacy benefit currently for Medi-Cal & Medicare Part
 - Managed Medi-Cal may possibly be covered in MD office per plan.

Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List
Effective 10/01/2023



Drug Name	Dosage	Strength/ Package Size	Billing Unit	UM Type	Code I
Topical & Local Preparations: Vaccines					
Abrysvo (Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine) *	Vial	120 mcg/0.5 ml	ea		* Use of this vaccine must be based on the guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Arexvy (Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine, Adjuvanted) *	Kit	120 mcg/0.5 ml	ea	AL	* Restricted to: 1) Medi-Cal beneficiaries 60 years of age and older. 2) Use of this vaccine must be based on the guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Nirsevimab Coverage
 - Definition of “Vaccine”
 - No statutory definition of vaccine in the statute for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program (section 1928 of the Social Security Act)
 - No statutory definition of vaccine in the Affordable Care Act (section 2713 of PHS Act), or its implementing regulations, which has a provision that mandates coverage of vaccine recommendations included on CDC’s immunization schedules
 - Nirsevimab is recommended by ACIP
 - covered by insurance
 - included in the VFC program
 - important for ensuring equitable access to nirsevimab
- Approximately 10% of birthing hospitals participate in the VFC program
- Pharmacy involvement: unknown – unlikely in the first season.
- Information and Education: RSV
 - [Winter Virus Tip Sheet](#)
 - [Fall-Winter 2023-24 Immunizations Infographics](#)
 - [RSV FAQs](#)
 - [Nirsevimab Timing Guide](#)

Upcoming Webinars

- Virtual Gran Rounds: Opioid Treatment: Practical Guidance for Clinicians
 - When: Tuesday October 10, 2023 12pm-1pm. Registration link can be found [here](#).
- Webinar: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
 - When: Monday October 16, 2023 12pm-1pm. Registration link can be found [here](#).
- Crucial Conversations Webinar: Talking with Patients about the Fall COVID-19, Flu, and RSV Season

- When: Wednesday October 18, 2023 12pm-1pm. Registration link can be found [here](#).
- SGF Flu Vaccine Management 102 for Providers
 - When: Monday October 23, 2023 12pm-1pm. Registration link can be found [here](#).
- Bridge Access Program myCAvax Office Hours
 - When: Thursday October 26, 2023 11am-11:30am. Registration link can be found [here](#).
- STI Clinical Update Webinar: California Mpox Update for Healthcare Providers
 - When: Thursday, October 26, 2023 Time: 12PM – 1PM, PDT Register [here](#).
- Clinical considerations for prevention of RSV in children American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - When: Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4PM, PST – Register [here](#).
- Nirsevimab implementation strategies in outpatient practices (AAP)
 - When: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 5PM, PST – Register [here](#)
- Clinical Update on the 2023 Respiratory Virus Season (CDC Current Issues in Immunization Webinar)
 - When: Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Time: TBD – Register [here](#).

CLINICAL UPDATE: COVID-19 Vaccine

- Novavax 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Now Authorized
 - Individuals 12 years of age and older previously vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine (and who have not already been vaccinated with a recently updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) are eligible to receive one dose at least 2 months after their last dose.
 - Unvaccinated individuals are eligible receive two doses.
 - Immunocompromised individuals are eligible for an additional dose of Novavax COVID19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (2023-2024 Formula) at least 2 months following the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (2023-2024 Formula). Additional doses of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (2023-2024 Formula) may be administered at the discretion of the healthcare provider,
 - Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (Original monovalent) is no longer authorized for use in the United States and should no longer be used.
- Novavax Vaccine Resources
 - Detailed CDC clinical guidance expected soon; ACIP not expected to meet again, as data was already reviewed at recent ACIP meeting.
 - [Check CDC Product Page](#) for updated Novavax standing orders (not yet posted)
 - Updates to CDPH materials are coming soon.
 - Updated Novavax FDA Materials
 - [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#)
 - [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregiver](#)
- What to Do with Deauthorized Novavax Vaccine
 - Quarantine deauthorized Novavax vaccine to prevent administration errors!
 - Report doses as “Waste” in myCAvax and use “Other” to add comment “deauthorized”!
 - Dispose of vaccines following practice protocols; vaccines may be disposed of in a pharmaceutical waste container, or a comingled pharmaceutical/Sharps waste container!

Bridge Access Program Retail Pharmacies

- Work directly with eTrueNorth to enroll your pharmacy location in the Bridge Access Program.
- eTrueNorth makes participation easy by providing a secure online platform for convenient patient sign-up and participating pharmacy reimbursement.
- Interested pharmacies can visit [Enrolling Bridge Access Program: joinetruenorth.com](https://joinetruenorth.com)
- The pharmacy component of the Bridge Access Program acts on a reimbursement model
 - This **differs** from the public health component which used a separate stock provided via allocation.
 - There is NOT a separate BAP inventory supply for pharmacies.
 - Commercial products will be purchased and then be reimbursed. eTrueNorth will reimburse for the invoiced cost of the vaccine and CDC will reimburse the \$40 admin fee
 - More information is in the onboarding packet from eTrueNorth

COVID-19 Q & A:

- Question: How can providers identify VFC vs BAP vs Private shipments of Pfizer COVID vaccines?
- Answer: Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shipments should contain the packing slips. If the packing slips are missing from your shipment, please contact the Provider Call Center for BAP orders (833) 502-1245, or the VFC Program for VFC Orders (877) 243-8832. Those programs can try and obtain copies of the packing slips from Pfizer on your behalf.

Bridge Access Program Resources:

- An overview of CDC's Bridge Access Program can be found [here](#).
 - [BAP provider operations manual](#)
 - [BAP Requirements at a Glance](#)
 - BAP [order cadence calendar](#)
 - [Eligibility guidelines by funding source](#)
 - If you are a Provider administering BAP vaccine, be sure to set your location on Vaccines.gov by follow the steps in this [job aid](#).
 - If you are a BAP-eligible provider interested in receiving BAP vaccine doses, complete program enrollment in the myCAvax Provider Community by Friday, October 27, 2023.
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LACDPH & CDPH Provider Office Hours Link

LA County Department of Public Health Provider Immunization Office Hours Information

- **Every other Wednesday from 9am-10am - Next meeting: 10/11/23**
 - **NOTE:** Effective 2/01/23 the Office Hours will be held on a biweekly basis
- This has been meeting amended to discuss COVID, Mpox, Flu and RSV vaccines. The meeting link will remain the same.
- MS Teams meeting link below; please create a recurring calendar invite with this link.
- **To request meeting slides, please email covidvaccinereq@ph.lacounty.gov**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-776-6996](tel:+13237766996), [350547595](tel:+1350547595) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 350 547 595#

California Department of Public Health Provider Office Hours Registration Link

- **Every Friday from 9am-10:30am.**
- Complete one-time registration [here](#).
- Meeting recordings and slides can be found [here](#).

Providers should add staff names to the Provider Listserv to receive weekly emails and updates. To be added, please email blanca.corona@cdph.ca.gov