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Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
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The Maine CDC Guidance on Immunization Recommendations Following the ACIP Meeting on September 18-19, 2025

The Department of Health and Human Services' Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to provide immunization recommendations based on guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) following the September 18 to 19 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The Maine CDC, along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, is maintaining its existing guidance that the Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine remain an option for children under 4 years of age, and strongly supports the current universal hepatitis B vaccine recommendations for giving newborns a dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth. The Maine CDC issued COVID-19 immunization [recommendations and a standing order](#) for the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine products (Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax) on September 12, 2025.

Background

ACIP is the federal advisory committee within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that has historically provided evidence-based recommendations for the use of vaccines to control vaccine preventable diseases in the U.S. population. The Maine CDC will continue to rigorously review all available vaccine guidance to ensure Maine residents continue to receive immunization recommendations grounded in best practices and strong scientific evidence.

MMRV Vaccine Recommendations

The Maine CDC, along with the AAP, does not have a preference for MMRV or separate MMR and monovalent varicella vaccine for toddlers' first immunization. Parents should be counseled about the rare possibility of their child developing a febrile seizure 1-2 weeks after immunization with MMRV for the first immunizing dose. MMRV vaccine should remain an option for families for both doses.

- All children should be vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella;
- First dose at age 12 through 15 months, second dose at 4 through 6 years before school entry;
- Separate MMR and varicella vaccines should be given for the first dose in children 12 months through 4 years; however, MMRV may be used if parents or caregivers express a preference for it;
- Merck's MMRV vaccine, ProQuad, was licensed by the Food and Drug Administration in 2005 for children 12 months through 12 years of age.

Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Recommendations

ACIP members unanimously passed a new recommendation that all pregnant women be tested for hepatitis B, a standard of care in Maine birthing hospitals. Independent of the mother's testing results, the Maine CDC, along with AAP, AAFP, and ACOG, strongly supports screening and giving all newborns a dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth, with additional doses at 1-2 months and 6-18 months. This remains the best protection against serious health problems, such as liver disease and cancer. Most people with hepatitis B don't know they have it at first and the virus can spread between family members living together and in other close contact settings, like daycares.

- All pregnant women should be screened for hepatitis B
 - ACOG recommends routine, universal hepatitis B triple panel screening (HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc) for all pregnant individuals early in each pregnancy, regardless of prior testing or vaccination status, unless they have a documented negative triple screen after age 18
- All infants, independent of the mother's hepatitis B status, should receive the hepatitis B vaccine
- Mother is HBsAg-negative:
 - 3-dose series at age 0, 1-2, 6-18 months
 - Use monovalent HepB vaccine for doses administered before age 6 weeks.
 - Birth weight $\geq 2,000$ grams: 1 dose within 24 hours of birth if medically stable
 - Birth weight $< 2,000$ grams: 1 dose at chronological age 1 month or hospital discharge (whichever is earlier and even if weight is still $< 2,000$ grams)
 - Infants who did not receive a birth dose should begin the series as soon as possible
 - Administration of 4 doses is permitted when a combination vaccine containing HepB is used after the birth dose; when 4 doses are administered, substitute "dose 4" for "dose 3" in these calculations.
- Mother is HBsAg-positive:
 - Administer monovalent HepB vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) in separate limbs within 12 hours of birth regardless of weight
 - Birth weight $< 2,000$ grams: administer 3 additional doses of HepB vaccine beginning at age 1 month (total 4 doses)
 - Final (3rd or 4th) dose: administer at 6 months (minimum age 24 weeks)
 - Test for HBsAg and anti-HBs at 9-12 months. If HepB series is delayed, test 1-2 months after final dose. Do not test before age 9 months.
- Mother is HBsAg-unknown:
 - Birth weight $\geq 2,000$ grams: administer monovalent HepB vaccine within 12 hours of birth. Determine mother's HBsAg status as soon as possible. If mother is determined to

- be HBsAg-positive, administer HBIG as soon as possible (in separate limb), but no later than 7 days of age
- Birth weight <2,000 grams: administer monovalent HepB vaccine and HBIG (in separate limbs) within 12 hours of birth. Administer 3 additional doses of HepB vaccine beginning at age 1 month (total of 4 doses)
- Final (3rd or 4th) dose: administer at 6 months (minimum age 24 weeks)
- If mother is determined to be HBsAg-positive or if status remains unknown, test for HBsAg and anti-HBs at age 9–12 months. If HepB series is delayed, test 1–2 months after final dose. Do not test before age 9 months.

COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

The Maine CDC issued COVID-19 immunization recommendations and a standing order for the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine products (Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax) on September 12, 2025. Vaccination remains the best defense against severe COVID-19 disease.

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/health-professionals/health-advisory-notices/covid-19-vaccine-recommendations-fri-09122025-1200>

The Maine Immunization Program will continue to distribute vaccines on behalf of children in Maine, and will notify providers when the U.S. CDC announces the availability of COVID-19 vaccines.

For more Information

- [American Academy of Pediatrics 2025 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger](#)
- [CDC Child Immunization Schedule Notes for Ages 18 Years or Younger – Hepatitis B](#)