

Title: West Coast Health Alliance issues Consensus WCHA 2025-26 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations

In early September, the Governors of Oregon, Hawaii, California, and Washington formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA)—a regional coalition dedicated to safeguarding scientific expertise by ensuring that public health policies are informed by data.

On September 17, 2025, the WCHA issued [Consensus WCHA 2025-26 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#) for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 vaccines. The WCHA aligned with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for influenza and RSV immunizations. For COVID-19, the WCHA recommends that all children under 2, all pregnant women, all adults 65 and older, and any individuals with risk factors for severe disease, including underlying medical conditions and congregate facility residence, receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the Alliance recommends that anyone who chooses protection should have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

**To operationalize these recommendations, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy has changed their rules to allow pharmacists statewide to resume vaccinating individuals 7 years and older without the need for a prescription effective September 17th.** At the same time, the Department of Consumer and Business Services is working with private insurers to maintain coverage for the vaccine – and issued a bulletin yesterday requiring that all health benefit plans in Oregon cover COVID-19 vaccines in alignment with WCHA recommendations without cost sharing. Medicaid, Medicare, PEBB, and OEBC will continue to cover the COVID-19 vaccine as they previously have.

Please be patient as pharmacists statewide adopt these changes.

For further questions, please contact the Public Health Division's Director's Office at [phd-directorsoffice@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:phd-directorsoffice@oha.oregon.gov).