



Oregon

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2025-2026 Respiratory Vaccine Administration Recommendations September 17, 2025

Q: What is the issue?

A: On Aug. 27, 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limited approval for updated COVID-19 vaccines to all people 65 years and older and people 6 months through under 64 years with underlying medical conditions. As of Sept. 17, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has not yet issued recommendations for the updated COVID-19 vaccine – while CDC already moved COVID-19 from the list of shots recommended for all healthy kids and pregnant women to a recommendation to have a discussion with your provider about benefits versus risks of getting the shot. As a result, some providers and pharmacies have been reluctant to stock updated COVID-19 vaccines. Many pharmacies have updated stock but are requiring either a prescription from the patient's healthcare provider or an attestation of underlying medical conditions for vaccination. These delays are due to inaction by the ACIP over the summer. The ACIP recommendations in the past have formed the basis of the protocols in Oregon for pharmacists to administer vaccines. What this means is that families are confused, providers are under pressure, pharmacies are under-resourced, and communities have been left more vulnerable.

Q: What is the West Coast Health Alliance?

A: The Governors of Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Washington have formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) as a unified regional response to concerns regarding the CDC's credibility and scientific integrity under its current leadership. The WCHA is committed to safeguarding scientific expertise and vaccine access, and leading with clarity, evidence and care so that individuals and families know their options and can access the protection they deserve.

The WCHA has developed Consensus [WCHA 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#).

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Q: What are the West Coast Health Alliance's COVID-19 vaccine recommendations?

A: The West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) has recommended that the updated COVID-19 vaccines be available to anyone 6 months or older who wants them at no cost—just as they have been during recent respiratory seasons. The WCHA specifically recommends that the following people at increased risk for severe disease get an updated COVID vaccine:

- Children between 6-23 months of age
- Adults 65 years and older
- Anyone over 6 months who is at high risk of severe disease because they have underlying medical conditions
- Anyone who is planning for pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum, or lactating
- People with exposure to others who are at high risk

Q: What are the WCHA's influenza vaccine recommendations?

A: The WCHA endorses the ACIP's current universal recommendation for the influenza vaccine as of Sept. 17, 2025. All people 6 months of age and older should receive an updated influenza vaccine. These recommendations are unchanged from last year.

Q: What are the WCHA's RSV vaccine recommendations?

A: As of Sept. 17, 2025, the WCHA also endorses the ACIP's current recommendations for RSV immunization products:

- All infants younger than 8 months born to mothers who did not receive a maternal RSV vaccine should receive either nirsevimab or clesrovimab shortly before or during the RSV season.
- People who are 32-36 weeks pregnant from September through January should receive a maternal RSV vaccine.
- Children 8-19 months with [risk factors](#) for severe disease should receive nirsevimab for severe disease should receive nirsevimab.
- All adults 75 and older should receive a single lifetime dose of RSV vaccine.
- Adults 50-74 with [risk factors](#) for severe RSV disease should also receive a single lifetime dose of RSV vaccine.

To protect young infants, either maternal vaccination or infant immunization with nirsevimab or clesrovimab is recommended. Infants do not need both.

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Q: As a pharmacist how may I administer vaccines to patients?

An appropriately trained pharmacist may administer a vaccine in accordance with **OAR 855-115-0305** as follows:

1. Under the direction of or pursuant to a lawful prescription or order issued by a licensed practitioner acting within the scope of the practitioner's practice;
2. In accordance with a **statewide drug therapy management protocol** per **OAR 855-115-0345**; or
3. In accordance with a clinical pharmacy agreement or collaborative drug therapy management agreement per **OAR 855-115-0315**.

Q: As a pharmacist, may I administer COVID-19 vaccine when someone presents without a prescription from a health care provider?

Yes. Effective Sept. 17, 2025, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy has changed its rules to allow pharmacists to resume vaccinating people 7 years and older without a prescription. The current adopted vaccine protocols can be found here: **Oregon Board of Pharmacy: Public Health & Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee / Protocols : State of Oregon**

Q: What specific information must be included on a prescription to permit a pharmacist to administer a vaccine via a prescription?

Prescriptions must meet the requirements as provided for in **OAR 855-041-1105**. If a prescription is issued by a health care provider other than the pharmacist and the health care provider wants the vaccine administered at the pharmacy, the prescription must indicate in the directions "to administer at pharmacy", or an equivalent phrase to indicate that the vaccine may be administered at the pharmacy. A health care provider may also indicate an underlying health condition if required that can be communicated by the health care provider in a variety of ways. Please note pharmacists can only prescribe vaccines pursuant to a statewide drug therapy management protocol. The current adopted vaccine protocols can be found here: **Oregon Board of Pharmacy: Public Health & Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee / Protocols : State of Oregon**

Q: Are technicians permitted to administer vaccines?

Yes, an appropriately trained Oregon licensed pharmacy technician may perform the physical act of administering a vaccine under the supervision and at the direction of the pharmacist per **OAR 855-125-0305** to people 7 years of age and up.

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Q: Are there limitations in who may receive a vaccine at a pharmacy?

Yes, except for the influenza vaccine, pharmacists can only prescribe and administer vaccines to people 7 years of age or older. More information on a pharmacist's ability to prescribe and administer the influenza vaccine for ages 6 months through 7 years of age can be found here: **Oregon Board of Pharmacy : Public Health & Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee / Protocols : State of Oregon**

We will continue to work with health care providers, payors and partners to ensure their familiarity with recommendations for COVID-19 and influenza antiviral treatments which, like immunizations, reduce the risk of severe disease.

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