



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
OCCUPATIONAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

ACOEM Statement on Adult Immunization

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) recommends that adults follow immunization recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce their risks from vaccine-preventable illnesses. Currently, the CDC recommends that adults remain up to date on vaccinations that prevent or mitigate the risks from the diseases listed in Table 1.¹ Additional recommendations for adults who have not received polio vaccination, or are at higher risk of exposure to poliovirus, should consider vaccination or booster as indicated by the CDC.²

ACOEM encourages its members and other health professionals to follow the CDC *Standards for Adult Immunization Practices* (SAIP)³ in clinical practice. Since many workers only see an occupational medicine physician, engaging occupational medicine providers will complement and augment resources and strategies for increasing adult immunization rates. ACOEM members are in a unique position to reach American workers in a variety of settings, as members hold key positions at hospitals, clinics, colleges and universities, large corporations, factories, industrial sites, law and safety enforcement, government agencies, military, and every other sector of employment. Occupational medicine providers can administer most vaccines and have the knowledge and resources to refer their patients to other vaccine providers if needed.

ACOEM believes that staying current with immunization recommendations will help protect the health of the American workforce, avoid needless work absences, and ultimately promote a healthy economy. Given the role immunizations play in protecting the health of the public, ACOEM recommends that health professionals and the public remain up to date with CDC recommended immunizations.¹ Children and adults should receive all vaccines for which they are eligible to both protect themselves from serious illness and prevent the spread of illness to friends and family members of all ages. ACOEM believes that vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect individuals and limit the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.

New vaccines are assessed by a long-standing, rigorous, and transparent process through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC, where data is reviewed and evaluated before authorization. Before the FDA approves or provides emergency use authorization (EUA), a vaccine must go through three phases of clinical trials to ensure its safety and efficacy. However, clinical trial study populations may, at first, not sufficiently represent older people, adults with health conditions, people of color, pregnant women, and children. Often special studies are needed to address these populations. In light of the gaps in our knowledge that the lack of diversity in study populations creates, and to monitor for very rare events, FDA monitors vaccines closely for any adverse events that did not come up during the clinical trials and to confirm that the benefits of a vaccine outweigh any risks. CDC immunization guidance is reviewed and updated (if necessary) annually to consider new data and information to ensure the best protection possible.

Health care providers are often the most readily trusted source of health-related information and could help influence patients or workers to receive vaccinations. ACOEM has led vaccination initiatives related to influenza, COVID-19, and travel-related diseases. First, recognizing the significant role employers play in communicating to their employees the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, the College compiled key messages, consistent with information from the CDC, for employers to share with their

employees to promote vaccination. A list of FAQs and resources that can be used to build vaccination confidence (www.acoemvaxinfo.org) was also assembled. Second, ACOEM developed a variety of flu vaccination posters for its members to display in their workplaces and social media images and messaging to promote the personal and public health importance of flu vaccination (<https://www.acoemvaxinfo.org/influenza>) to their employees. ACOEM also published *Travelers' Health and Vaccination*⁴ guidance to provide up-to-date information on what vaccines, and the timing thereof, are necessary for employees who travel.

Table 1: CDC Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule by Age Group, United States, 2024¹

Vaccine	19–26 years	27–49 years	50–64 years	≥65 years
COVID-19	1 or more doses of updated (2023-2024 Formula) vaccine (See Notes)			
Influenza inactivated (IIV4) or Influenza recombinant (RIV4)	1 dose annually			
Influenza live, attenuated (LAIV4)	1 dose annually			
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	Seasonal administration during pregnancy. See Notes.		≥60 years	
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap or Td)	1 dose Tdap each pregnancy; 1 dose Td/Tdap for wound management (see notes)			
	1 dose Tdap, then Td or Tdap booster every 10 years			
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	1 or 2 doses depending on indication (if born in 1957 or later)			For healthcare personnel, see notes
Varicella (VAR)	2 doses (if born in 1980 or later)		2 doses	
Zoster recombinant (RZV)	2 doses for immunocompromising conditions (see notes)		2 doses	
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	2 or 3 doses depending on age at initial vaccination or condition	27 through 45 years		
Pneumococcal (PCV15, PCV20, PPSV23)				See Notes
				See Notes
Hepatitis A (HepA)	2, 3, or 4 doses depending on vaccine			
Hepatitis B (HepB)	2, 3, or 4 doses depending on vaccine or condition			
Meningococcal A, C, W, Y (MenACWY)	1 or 2 doses depending on indication, see notes for booster recommendations			
Meningococcal B (MenB)	19 through 23 years	2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine and indication, see notes for booster recommendations		
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	1 or 3 doses depending on indication			
Mpox				

Recommended vaccination for adults who meet age requirement, lack documentation of vaccination, or lack evidence of immunity
 Recommended vaccination for adults with an additional risk factor or another indication
 Recommended vaccination based on shared clinical decision-making
 No recommendation/ Not applicable

About ACOEM

Founded in 1916, ACOEM is the nation's largest medical society dedicated to promoting the health of workers through preventive medicine, clinical care, research, and education. ACOEM promotes optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces, and environments by educating occupational health and other healthcare professionals, enhancing the quality of OEM practice, guiding workplace and public policy, and advancing the field of OEM. Its membership is comprised of 3,500 physicians, nurses, physician associates, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals who specialize in occupational and environmental medicine (OEM). The specialty of OEM focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of work-related injuries and illnesses and ensuring that workplace environments are safe for workers. It is the medical field that concentrates on the impact of work on health and the impact of health on the ability to work. ACOEM members are knowledgeable and capable of treating job-related diseases, recognizing and resolving workplace hazards, and providing well-managed care. They strive to optimize worker wellbeing and workplace safety. They have worker-focused expertise and training in public health and are an essential resource to manage a variety of workplace emergencies including infectious outbreaks and natural disasters.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for ages 19 years or older, United States, 2024*. November 16, 2023. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html#table-age>.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Polio Vaccination Recommendations for Specific Groups, United States, 2022*. August 8, 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/polio/hcp/recommendations.html>.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Standards for Adult Immunization Practices*. May 2, 2016. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/standards/index.html>.
4. Taylor TK, Moses JE, Sauri MA, Na C, Blink RC. *Travelers' Health and Vaccination*. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. July 2022. Available at: <https://acoem.org/acoem/media/PDF-Library/ACOEM-Traveler-Health-and-Vaccinations-07-21-22-FINAL.pdf>.