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The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Office of Immunization supports updated recommendations for the **2026–2027 respiratory virus season**, including for influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines. Updated 2026–2027 recommendations have been released by the **American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)**. These organizations reviewed the available evidence on the safety and effectiveness of respiratory virus immunizations and have issued updated guidance for their respective patient populations.

Our practice strongly supports these guidelines as outlined below:

Influenza
Annual influenza (flu) vaccination continues to be recommended for individuals 6 months of age and older, unless medically contraindicated. The 2026–2027 influenza vaccines contain 3 vaccine virus components and have been updated from the 2025–2026 season. The updated formulation includes an influenza A (H3N2) component intended to better protect against the H3N2 viruses that circulated widely during the 2025–2026 season.

COVID-19
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2026–2027 season. For children, the AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children 6–23 months of age, with recommendations for children ages 2–17 years based on risk and individual circumstances, including vaccination for those who desire protection.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
RSV immunization remains an important strategy for preventing severe RSV disease in infants and older adults. For infants, RSV prevention includes maternal RSV vaccination during pregnancy or administration of a long-acting monoclonal antibody to the infant, such as nirsevimab or clesrovimab, depending on the infant's age, maternal vaccination status, and risk factors. The AAP has updated its 2026–2027 recommendations and expanded recommendations for certain children entering their second RSV season who are at increased risk for severe disease.

Sincerely,
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