



## Family Medicine Champions the RSV Vaccine

**R**espiratory syncytial virus, more commonly known as RSV, is a virus that affects the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. It is especially important to prevent RSV in the very young and older adults. The IAFP and AAFP continue to voice strong recommendations for the maternal RSV vaccine in pregnancy, infancy and for older adults.

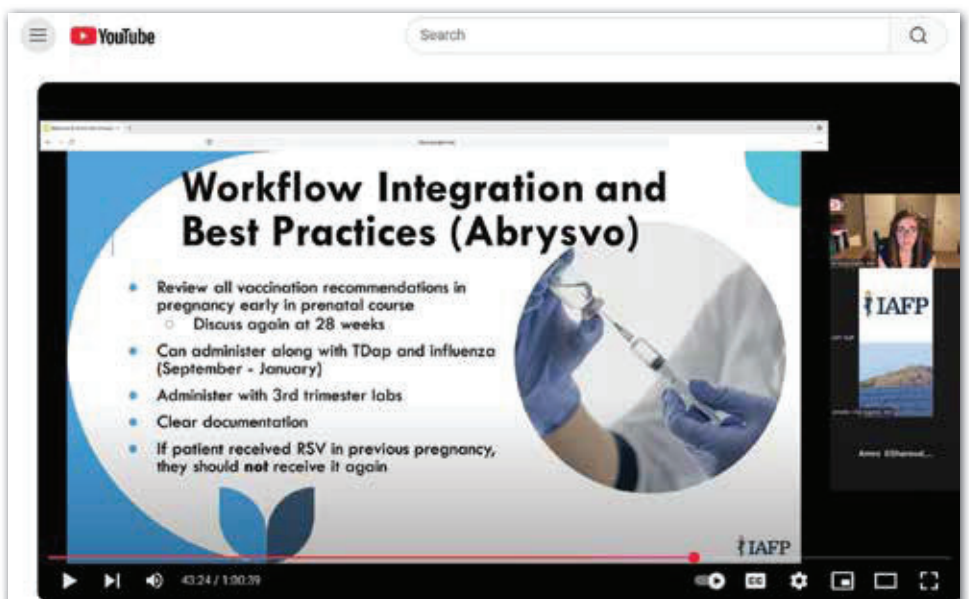
RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization in babies under the age of 1. Premature babies and those with heart disease and lung disease are at increased risk of severe illness. People who are between 32 and 36 weeks pregnant during the RSV season of September through January should receive the maternal RSV vaccine. Babies from birth to 8 months old should receive the infant RSV vaccine before RSV activity increases in October.

Adults ages 75 and older should also get an RSV vaccine because their ability to handle respiratory illnesses declines with age. This vaccine is given once and does not need to be repeated each year. Adults ages 60-74 who are at increased risk of severe disease should ask their doctor if they need an RSV vaccine.

Access our tools for you and your patients on the IAFP's YouTube Education page [youtube.com/@IAFPeducation](https://youtube.com/@IAFPeducation).

**CME:** Online recording of the IAFP August 7 webinar *Maternal & Infant RSV Vaccine: Implementation and Best Practices for Primary Care* presented by Kristina Dakis, MD, FAAFP of Gibson City and Jennifer Chiji-Aguma, MD of Urbana.

**Patient Education:** IAFP collaborated with Santina Wheat, MD, MPH, FAAFP on a short patient education video available in English and Spanish also on the YouTube page that you can easily link to from your practice website, patient email communication or social media posts.





**IAFP Online provider resources:** Help protect your youngest patients. Visit [iafp.com/pages/RSV](https://iafp.com/pages/RSV) for provider resources, including A Guide for Providers Caring for Pregnant Patients & Infants available in English and Spanish.



SCAN ME

**AAFP's Hub for RSV Vaccines and Therapeutics** includes guidance on increasing vaccination in adults age 60 and older. Use the QR code or e-Magazine readers can click on the AAFP image to the left.

### Making the case to the public

These six major physician groups issued a statement in July reinforcing the safety, efficacy and health protection benefits of respiratory vaccines, including RSV.

*The statement below is issued by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, and American Osteopathic Association:*

“There must be a strong, united front in support of vaccines and public health. Misinformation, dangerous politicization of commonsense public health efforts and sudden, confusing changes to federal vaccine guidance are eroding trust in public health and life saving vaccines. The U.S. currently faces the highest number of cases of measles in 33 years – reversing the course of this preventable disease since it was declared eliminated in the U.S. Finally, we are quickly approaching another respiratory season during which flu, RSV and COVID-19 will threaten infants, seniors, pregnant patients, those with underlying health needs and those who live with and care for these individuals.”



# INCREASE VACCINE RATES FOR ADULTS

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR  
PHYSICIANS TO BOOST ADULT  
IMMUNIZATION RATES



ILLINOIS ACADEMY  
of FAMILY PHYSICIANS



## Physician Education

Free online CME education on  
**Adult Immunization Update -  
New recommendations and Overcoming Barriers &  
Hesitancy**



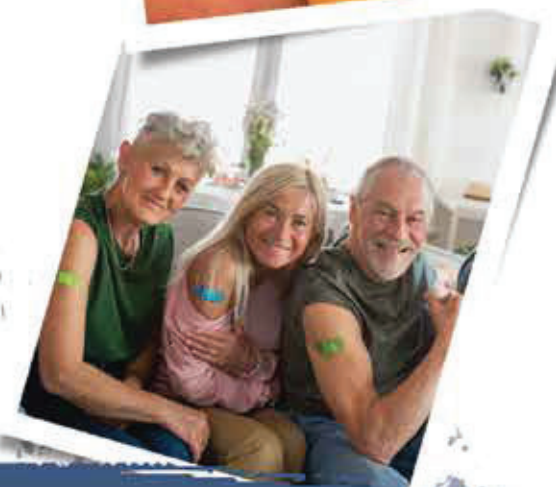
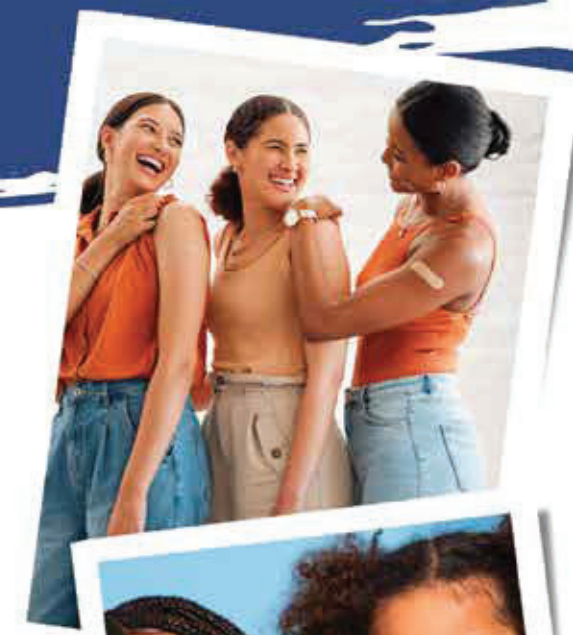
Learn about the CDC guideline changes, how to improve adult vaccination efforts through the use tools like the I-CARE registry & other resources, how to identify barriers and use effective communication strategies to address vaccine hesitancy and patient concerns.



## Online Resource Library

Access to resources on

- Physician Clinical Resources
- Vaccine Hesitancy
- APPS and Other Technology for Vaccines
- Patient Resources
- Social Media Kit for Healthcare Professionals
- DIY Community Outreach for Healthcare Professionals
- I-VAC (Illinois Vaccinates against COVID)
- And more!



Visit [www.iafp.com/pages/adult-immunizations](http://www.iafp.com/pages/adult-immunizations)

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