



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

2025–2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Nuts and Bolts

Wisconsin Immunization Program

December 9, 2025

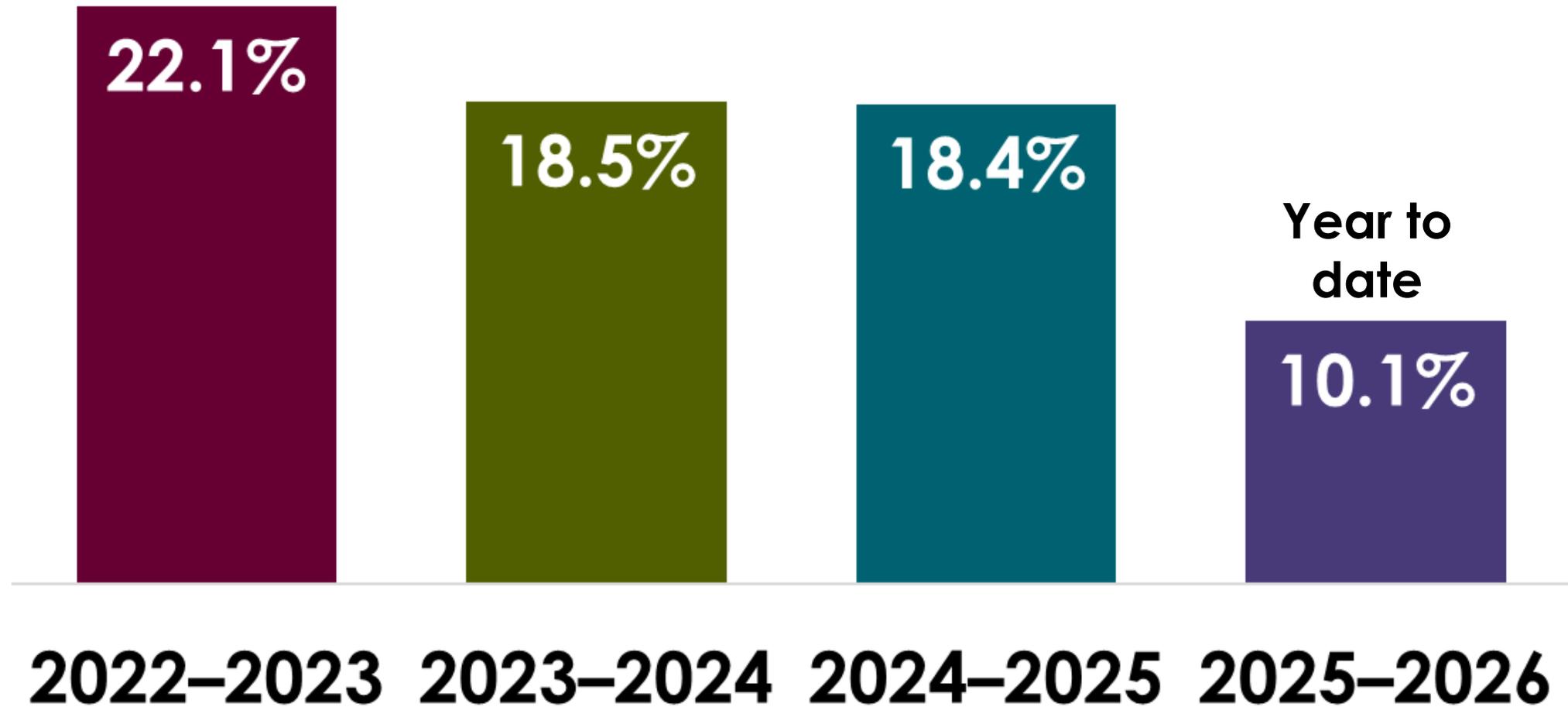
Agenda

- Current Vaccination Coverage–Sarah Kangas
- 2025–2026 COVID-19 Vaccines–Christie Larmie
 - Recommendations and Storage and Handling
- VFC Considerations–Ashley Sarbacker
- Medicaid–Elizabeth Durkes
- Communications–Melissa Haig
- Recent Findings–Monica Thakur

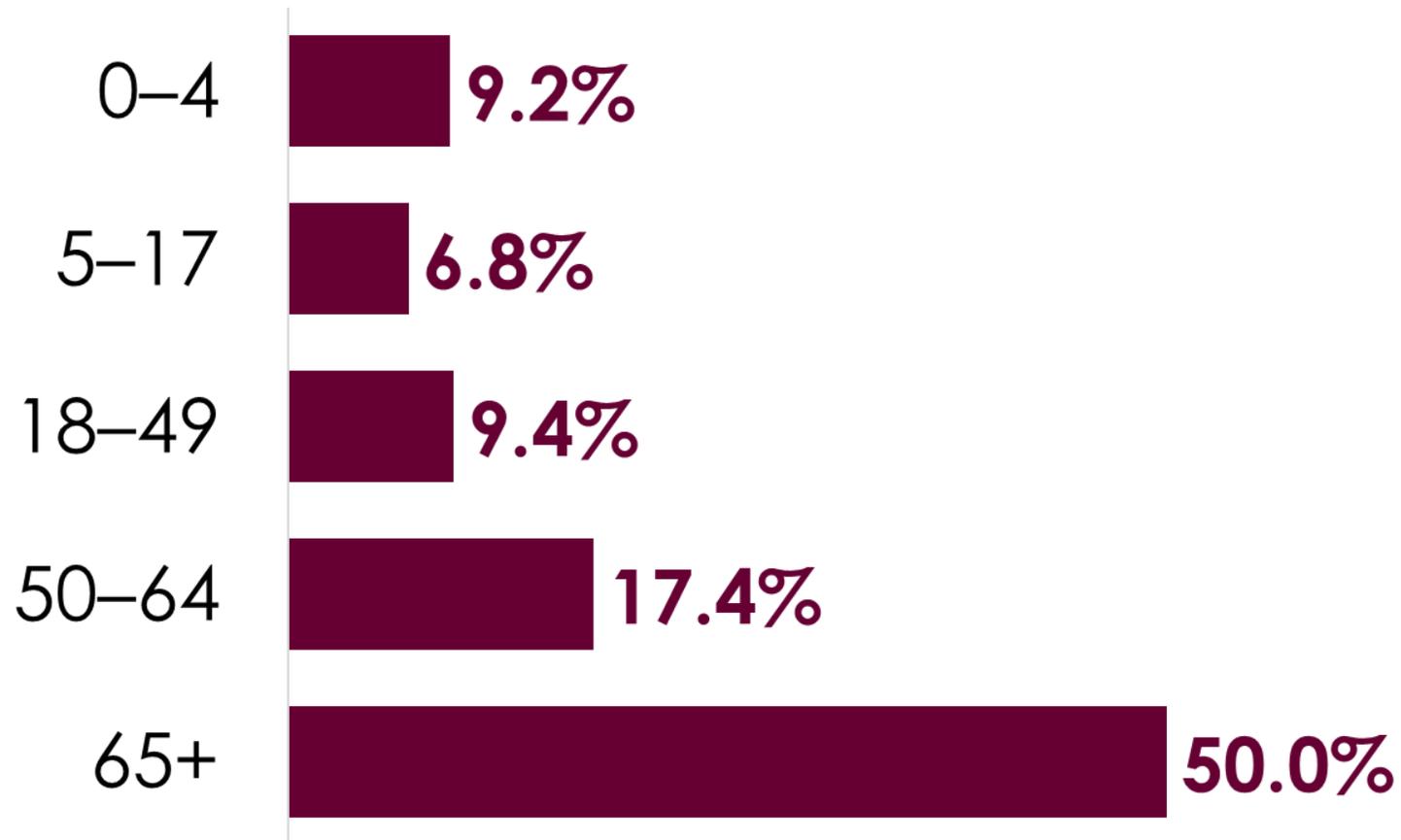
Current Vaccine Coverage



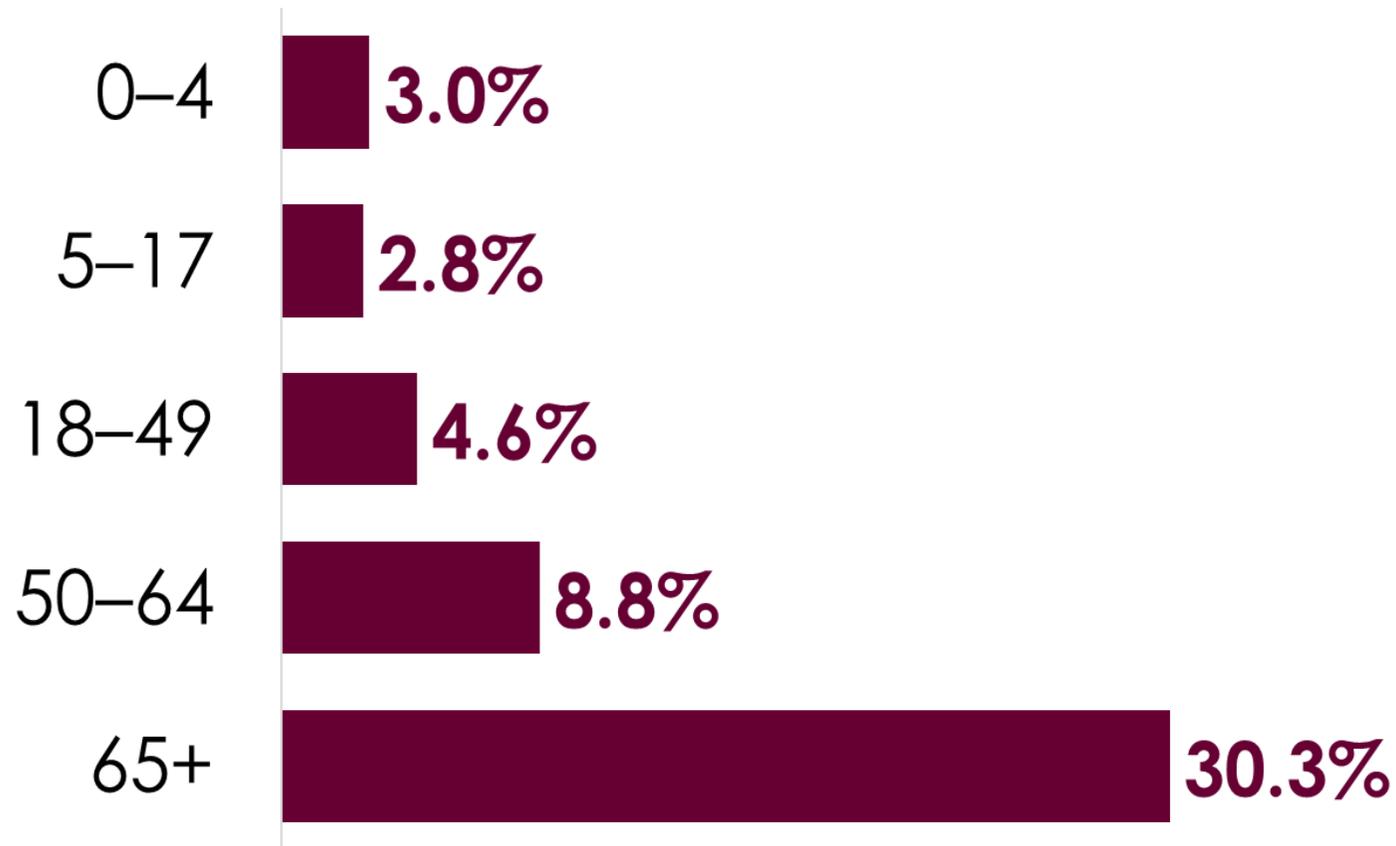
Percentage of Wisconsin Residents Who Received COVID-19 Vaccine, by Season



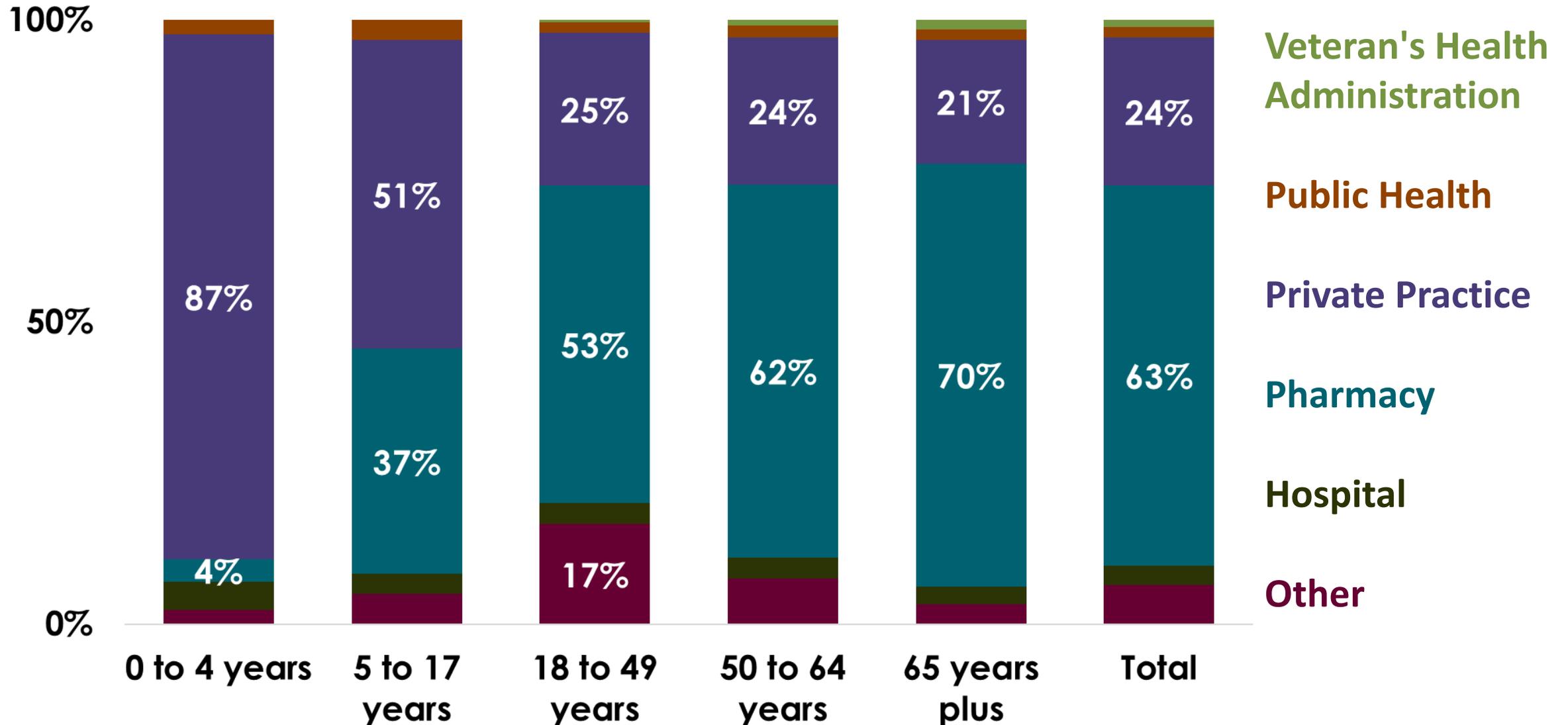
Percent of Wisconsin Residents Who Received COVID-19 Vaccine, by Age Group, 2024–2025



Percent of Wisconsin Residents Who Received COVID-19 Vaccine, by Age Group, 2025 YTD



COVID-19 Vaccination by Age and Provider Location, 2025 YTD



Current Vaccines



Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

Comirnaty

blue label

Comirnaty

gray label

Comirnaty Blue Cap and Label



Indication	5 years– 11 years
Presentation	.3 mL SDV
Shipping	Ultra-cold (on dry ice)
Storage options	
Freezer	N/A
Refrigerator	10 weeks

Comirnaty Blue Cap and Label

Preparation notes

- Verify the label
- Thaw vial (if needed)
- Mix prior to use
- Withdraw a single .3mL dose
- Discard vial and excess

Comirnaty Gray Label



Indication	12+ years
Presentation	.3 mL PFS
Shipping	2°C to 8°C

Storage options
Freezer N/A
Refrigerator Until expiration

Comirnaty Gray Label

Preparation notes

- Verify the label
- Do not shake
- Remove tip cap and attach needle

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

Spikevax
red label

Spikevax
blue label

mNEXSPIKE

Spikevax Red Label



Indication	6 months– 11 years
Presentation	.25 mL PFS
Shipping	Frozen
Storage options	
Freezer	Until expiration
Refrigerator	60 days

Spikevax Blue Label



Indication	12+ years
Presentation	.5 mL PFS
Shipping	Frozen
Storage options	
Freezer	Until expiration
Refrigerator	60 days

mNEXSPIKE



Indication	12+ years
Presentation	.2 mL PFS
Shipping	Frozen
Storage options	
Freezer (-40°C to -15°C)	Until expiration
Refrigerator	90 days

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

Preparation notes

- Verify the label
- Thaw (if needed)
- Do not shake
- Remove tip cap and attach needle

Sanofi/Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

Nuvaxovid

Nuvaxovid



Indication	12+ years
Presentation	.5 mL PFS
Shipping	2°C to 8°C
Storage options	
Freezer	N/A
Refrigerator	Until expiration

Recommendations



Vaccine Recommendations

Wisconsin:

Recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for Wisconsinites 6 months and older during this fall respiratory virus season. This is in alignment with the recommendations of AAP, ACOG, and AAFP.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):

People ages 6 months and older: Vaccination based on individual-based decision-making (also known as [shared clinical decision-making](#)).

Vaccine Recommendations

Tony Evers
Governor

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary



Division of Public Health
201 E. Washington Ave.
PO Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659
Phone: 608-266-1251
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TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

Date: October 13, 2025

To: Physicians, Pharmacists, Infection Preventionists, Long-Term Care Facilities, Local Health Departments, Tribal Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Visiting Nurse Agencies, and other immunization providers

From: James H. Conway, MD, FAAP
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Jonathan L. Temte, MD, PhD
Chair, Wisconsin Council on Immunization Practices

Ryan Westergaard, MD, PhD, MPH
State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases

Re: The 2025–2026 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the prevention and control of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 with vaccines

Promote Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and COVID-19 Vaccination

Influenza, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2 viruses are expected to circulate at the same time during the upcoming 2025–2026 respiratory virus season. In this context, vaccination will be important to decrease the overall impact of respiratory illnesses by reducing respiratory virus-associated illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths, and reducing the burden on the health care system. A [letter to providers summarizing the recommendations for influenza vaccination](#) was shared previously. This letter summarizes the recommendations for RSV and COVID-19 vaccination.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health



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PO Box 2659
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Telephone: 608-267-9003
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Date: September 16, 2025

BCD 2025-03 Replaces BCD 2025-01

To: Wisconsin Vaccinators

From: Ryan Westergaard, MD, Ph.D. Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease

STATEWIDE COVID-19 VACCINATION STANDING ORDER FOR THE 2025–26 RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY

Background

COVID-19 remains a significant cause of serious illness, hospitalization, and death in Wisconsin and across the United States. Vaccination with updated seasonal formulations has been shown to reduce emergency visits, hospitalizations, and deaths, as well as to lower the risk of post-COVID conditions ("long COVID"). Multiple large-scale reviews and a recent synthesis by the Vaccine Integrity Project, confirm that vaccines are safe and effective across populations, including children, pregnant individuals, and people with underlying conditions. Major professional organizations—including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)—recommend broad use of updated COVID-19 vaccines.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this statewide standing order is to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 by authorizing qualified health care personnel to vaccinate eligible individuals without a patient-specific prescription. This order applies to all persons aged 6 months and older, including pregnant and lactating individuals, consistent with evidence-based recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Food and Drug

Schedule



Schedule: 6–23 Months

Complete initial vaccination series or administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine for those who completed their initial series.

Unvaccinated: Administer 2 doses with 4–8 weeks between dose 1 and 2.

Vaccine product:



Schedule: 6–23 Months

Complete initial vaccination series or administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine for those who completed their initial series.

Incomplete series prior: Complete initial series with 2025–2026 vaccine (see guidance for intervals).

Vaccine product:



Schedule: 6–23 Months

Complete initial vaccination series or administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine for those who completed their initial series.

Complete series prior: Dose 1 at least 8 weeks after last dose.

Vaccine product:



Schedule: 2–4 Years

Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine .

If the individual was previously vaccinated, give least 8 weeks after last dose.

Vaccine product:



Schedule: 5–11 Years

Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine.

If the individual was previously vaccinated, give least 8 weeks after last dose.

Vaccine product:



Schedule: 12–64 Years

Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine.

Minimal intervals between doses:

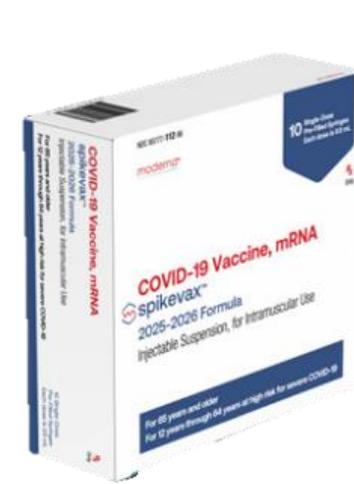
Spikevax → 8 weeks

Comirnaty → 8 weeks

Nuvaxovid → 8 weeks

mNEXSPIKE → **3 months**

Vaccine product:

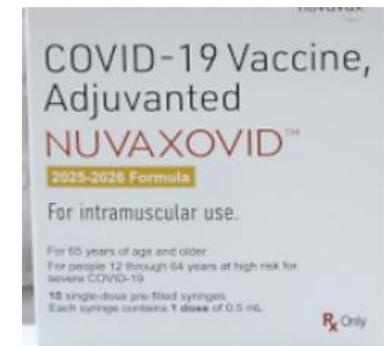
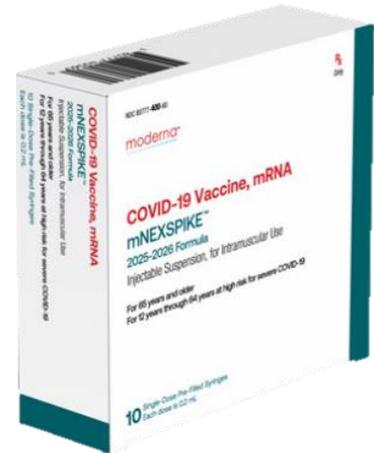
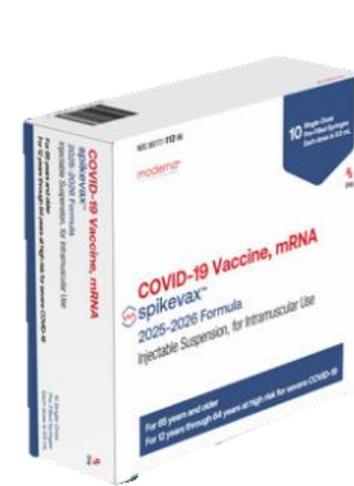


Schedule: 65 Years and Older

Administer 2 doses of 2025–2026 vaccine 6 months apart.

See guidance for minimal intervals.

Vaccine product:



Schedule: People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Consult the guidance for detailed information.

Unvaccinated:

- Administer an initial 3-dose series with 2025–2026 vaccine.
- Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine 6 months after completing initial series.

Schedule: People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Consult the guidance for detailed information.

Incomplete series prior:

- Complete the 3-dose series with 2025–2026 vaccine.
- Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine 6 months after completing initial series.

Schedule: People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Consult the guidance for detailed information.

Complete series prior: Administer 2 doses of 2025–2026 vaccine spaced 6 months apart.

Schedule: People Who Are Pregnant and Lactating

Administer 1 dose of 2025–2026 vaccine.

Timing: Any trimester (emphasis on the earliest opportunity to maximize health).

Coadministration: Can be given with other routinely recommended vaccines during pregnancy.

There is no preferential recommendation for the use of any one COVID-19 vaccine over another.

Notes

- Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines.
- Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines: Use vaccine from the same manufacturer for all doses in the initial vaccination series.

Resources

AAP Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Products

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Products
2025–2026 Formula

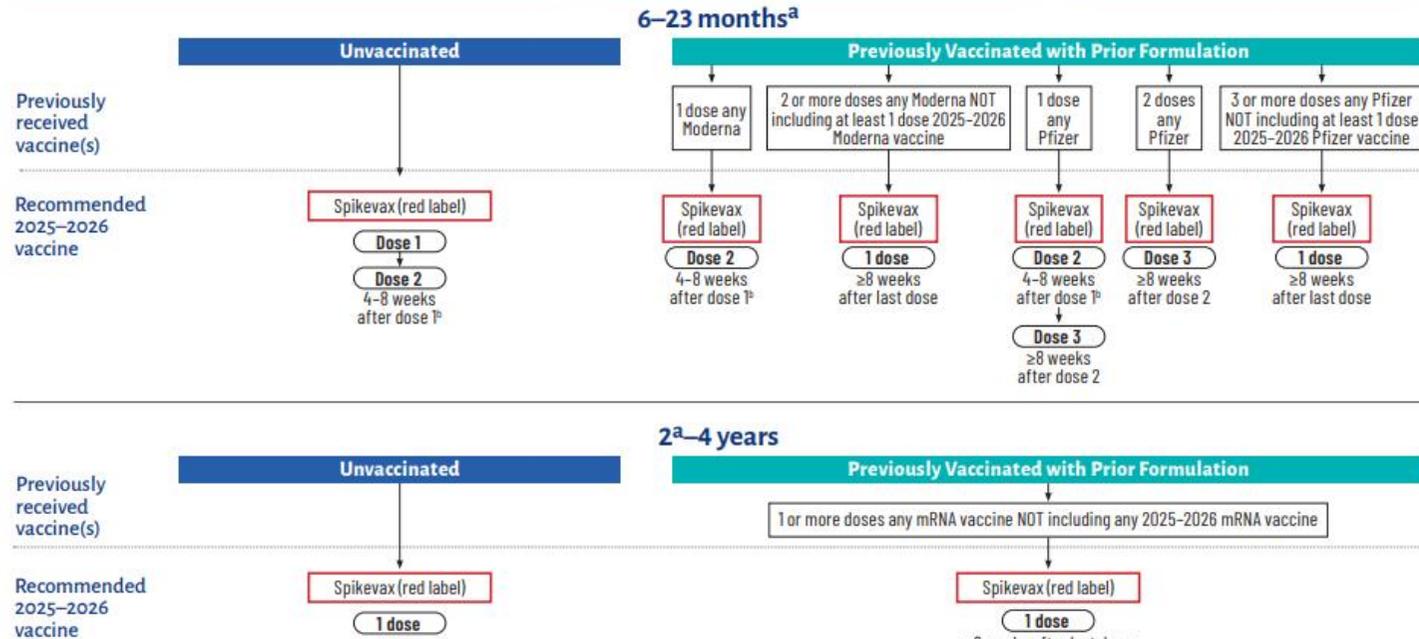
Spikevax (red label) 6 months–11 years  0.25 ml single-dose prefilled syringe	Spikevax (blue label) 12 years and older  0.5 ml single-dose prefilled syringe	mNEXSPIKE (teal label) 12 years and older  0.2 ml single-dose prefilled syringe
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Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Products
2025–2026 Formula

Comirnaty (blue cap) 5–11 years  10 mcg/0.3 ml single-dose vial	Comirnaty (gray label) 12 years and older  0.3 ml single-dose prefilled syringe
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Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Product
2025–2026 Formula

Nuvaxovid (dark cyan label) 12 years and older  0.5 ml single-dose prefilled syringe



VFC Considerations



VFC Guidance

- Requirement to maintain sufficient inventory:
 - All VFC providers are expected to carry all ACIP vaccines for the population they serve as a condition of being a VFC provider, including COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccine is available for ordering via WIR.

Trade Name	Age	Manufacturer
SPIKEVAX	6M-11Y	Moderna
SPIKEVAX	12+	Moderna
COMIRNATY	5Y-11Y	Pfizer
COMIRNATY	12+	Pfizer
NOVAXOVID	12+	Sanofi

2024–2025 Vaccine

- 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine should no longer be administered.
- Remaining inventory:
 - Remove doses from inventory and email vaccine return form to vfc@wi.gov.
 - Remove doses from WIR inventory.
- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
 - If vaccine is administered after expiration, must complete a VAERS report.
 - <https://vaers.hhs.gov>
 - Follow internal clinic guidelines for reporting the error.

Medicaid Coverage



Medicaid and COVID-19 Vaccination

- In accordance with [Executive Order #275](#) WI Medicaid will continue to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members 6 months and older.
- [ForwardHealth Update](#) issued in October 2025:
 - Expands sources of vaccine recommendations to include other governing bodies like American Academy of Pediatrics and National Academy of Medicine.
 - Provides billing changes for COVID-19, Influenza, and MMRV vaccines.
- Covered procedure codes and reimbursement rates can be found on the [maximum allowable fee schedule](#) on the ForwardHealth Portal.

Medicaid and COVID-19 Vaccination

The following must be included on claims:

VFC	Non-VFC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicable vaccine product code• SL modifier (to indicate a state-supplied vaccine)• Applicable vaccine administration code (90480)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicable vaccine product code• Applicable vaccine administration code (90480)

Medicaid and COVID-19 Vaccination

- ForwardHealth does reimburse for vaccine product and vaccine administration for private stock (non-VFC) vaccines.
- VFC enrolled providers must document the reason for using private vaccine stock for VFC eligible members, including lack of VFC vaccine availability and/or a clinical rationale for use of a non-VFC vaccine presentation when other presentations of the vaccine are available through VFC.

Communications



Who are the Trusted Messengers?

Health care providers and the non-governmental medical or scientific communities are the most trusted sources of information.



What Information Do People Want?

- People want to be more educated.
- They are seeking more detailed information and statistics on **each** vaccine before deciding.
- They want to assess the risks and rewards.

What Information Do People Want?

Understanding the long-term impact of vaccines is particularly important.

People want scientific information presented in an understandable manner, but not in a way that speaks down to them or feels misleading.

Personal stories and relatable narratives humanize the message and build emotional connections.

Provider Reminders

- Make a strong recommendation for all patients 6 months and older to receive the latest COVID vaccine.
- Use a presumptive approach (you are due for your COVID-19 and flu vaccines this respiratory virus season).
- Tips:
 - Text messages
 - MyChart messages
 - Check immunization records at all visit types and offer vaccination
 - Highlight that it is not too late to get up to date on the COVID-19 vaccine

New Data



Recent Findings

THE LANCET
Child & Adolescent Health

ARTICLES · Volume 9, Issue 12, P837-847, December 2025 · [Open Access](#)

[Download Full Issue](#)

Vascular and inflammatory diseases after COVID-19 infection and vaccination in children and young people in England: a retrospective, population-based cohort study using linked electronic health records

[Alexia Sampri, PhD](#) ^{a,b} [✉](#) · [Wen Shi, PhD](#) ^{a,b} · [Thomas Bolton, PhD](#) ^c · [Samantha Ip, PhD](#) ^{a,b,d,e} · [Rochelle Knight, MSc](#) ^{f,g} · [Venexia Walker, PhD](#) ^{f,g,i} · et al. [Show more](#)

- COVID infection increases risk of myocarditis and pericarditis in children and young people more than vaccination.
- The elevated risk persists for 12 months after infection.
- The risk of myocarditis and pericarditis is lower and for a shorter time period post vaccination.

Recent Findings

JAHA
Journal of the American Heart Association

CURRENT ISSUE | ARCHIVE | JOURNAL INFORMATION

RESEARCH ARTICLE | Originally Published 29 October 2025 |    Check for updates

Viral Infections and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Kosuke Kawai, ScD  , Cresencia Felician Muhere, MD, Elkin V. Lemos, MD, PhD , and Joel M. Francis, MD, PhD  | [AUTHOR INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

Journal of the American Heart Association • Volume 14, Number 21 • <https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.125.042670>

- COVID infection increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.
- The risk persists for the month following infection.
- Getting vaccinated is particularly important for those with risks of cardiovascular disease.

Recent Findings

nature

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NEWS | 22 October 2025 | Update [22 October 2025](#)

People with some cancers live longer after a COVID vaccine

mRNA vaccines seem to boost the effectiveness of an immune therapy for skin and lung cancer — in an unexpected way.

- Getting mRNA COVID vaccines may increase the longevity of lung cancer and melanoma patients.
- This may be because vaccination activates the general immune system, which also helped fight cancer cells.

Recent Findings



Kids with eczema may have fewer related infections, allergic complications after COVID vaccination

News brief | November 12, 2025

[Mary Van Beusekom, MS](#)

Topics: [COVID-19](#)

- Getting the COVID vaccine helps kids with eczema experience fewer infections and allergic complications, such as ear infections, pneumonia, and bronchiolitis.
- Vaccinated children also had a lower risk of asthma, contact dermatitis, and food related anaphylaxis.

Summary

- Uptake of the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine is low.
- COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for all individuals 6 months of age and older.
- Providers are trusted messengers and should make a strong recommendation for all individuals.
- There is a continued, growing body of evidence that staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines continues to be beneficial in preventing COVID-19 disease and other serious events (such as long COVID and cardiovascular events).

Questions

Contact the Immunization program for more information at DHSImmProgram@wi.gov

