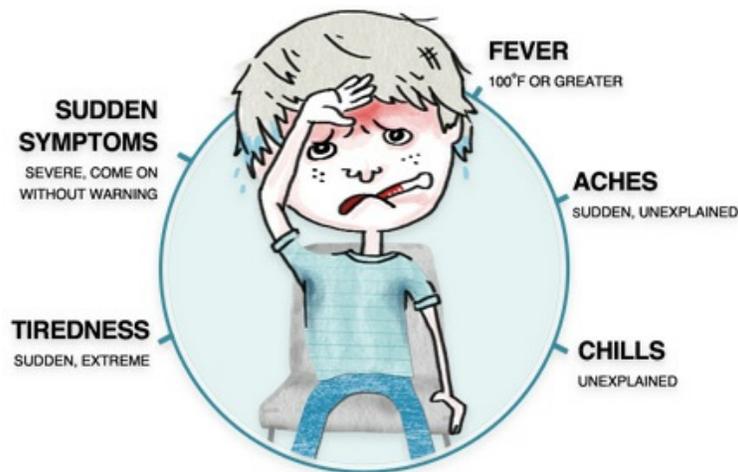




## I Raise the Rates! January Edition

In this edition of I Raise the Rates (IRtR), you will find a variety of new resources from several public health partners, educational opportunities, and a selection of media articles related to immunization.



Seasonal influenza activity continues to decline across the country, but CDC continues to recommend that everyone ages 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine as long as flu activity continues. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu and vaccination helps prevent infection and can also prevent serious outcomes in people who get vaccinated but still get sick with flu. [Visit CDC's Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](#) for weekly updates.

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**Make a Strong Influenza Vaccine Recommendation**



As a healthcare professional, your strong recommendation is a critical factor in whether your patients get an influenza vaccine. Most adults believe vaccines are important, but they need a reminder from you to get vaccinated. After making your recommendation, follow up with each patient during subsequent appointments to ensure they receive an influenza vaccine. If a patient still is unvaccinated, repeat the recommendation and try to identify and address any questions or concerns.

**SHARE** the reasons why an influenza vaccine is right for the patient given his or her age, health status, lifestyle, occupation, or other risk factors.

**HIGHLIGHT** positive experiences with influenza vaccines (personal or in your practice), as appropriate, to reinforce the benefits and strengthen confidence in influenza vaccination.

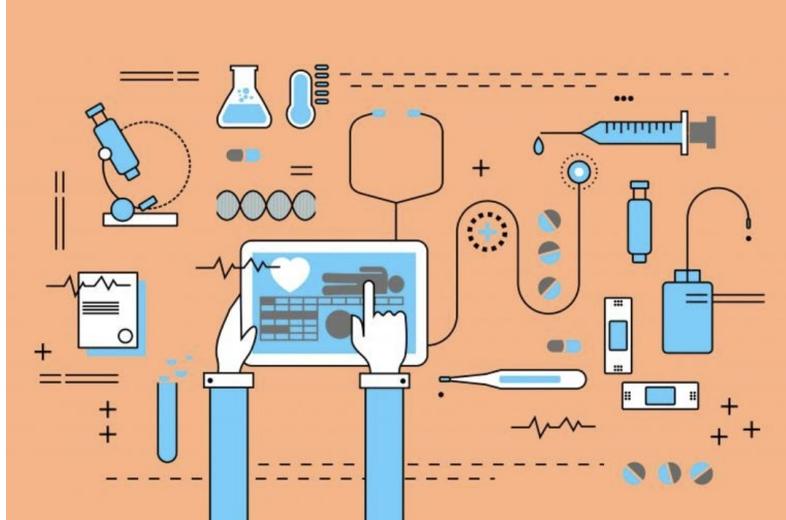
**ADDRESS** patient questions and any concerns about influenza vaccines, including side effects, safety, and vaccine effectiveness in plain and understandable language. Acknowledge that while people who get an influenza vaccine may still get sick, there are studies that show that the illness may be less severe.

**REMIND** patients that influenza vaccines help protect themselves and their loved ones from serious influenza illness and complications that can result in hospitalization or even death for some people.

**EXPLAIN** the potential costs of getting influenza, including potential serious health effects for the patient, time lost (such as missing work or family obligations), financial costs, and potentially spreading influenza to more vulnerable family or friends.

[Learn More](#)

**Free Coaching Opportunity - Apply Now to Join I  
Raise the Rates**



APPLY NOW Opportunity to receive free coaching to Increase Adult Influenza Immunization Rates.

ACP is recruiting internal medicine and subspecialty practices and residency programs to participate in the *I Raise the Rates* quality improvement programs to increase influenza and adult immunization rates. ACP's I Raise the Rates program, which is supported by funding from CDC, provides free QI education and virtual coaching support from ACP Advance expert coaches to increase adult immunization coverage. The program also offers access to a virtual learning community, tailored educational offerings, including free registration to QI Pecourse at the 2023 ACP Internal Medicine meeting in San Diego, CA, as well as the opportunity to earn CME and MOC for program participants.

**The deadline to apply is March 1, 2023.** Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to apply early. Please click the button below to access the recruitment flyer for more information about participation benefits and requirements, as well as the application link.

[Access the Recruitment Flyer Here](#)

## **Inflation Reduction Act**

Effective January 1, 2023, the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** eliminated out-of-pocket costs for all adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Vaccines are a cost-effective preventative public health strategy that protects and preserves the health of not only individuals but communities as well. The implementation of the IRA is a key strategy in closing the gap in vaccination coverage among Medicare

population. The vaccine provisions included in this act demonstrates the country's priority in controlling and preventing vaccine-preventable diseases and more specifically, improving vaccination access, utilization, and coverage for adult populations. NACCHO welcomes and embraces the passage of this vital act and will continue to support and advocate for local health departments in reducing inequities in vaccination access and enhancing opportunities for all.

Similarly, beginning October 1, 2023, adults who are enrollees of traditional Medicaid, CHIP (19 years of age and older), and those considered Medicaid medically needy in specified states, will have access to ACIP recommended adult vaccines with no out-of-pocket expenses.

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## Featured Articles and Resources

### **CDC & FDA Identify Preliminary COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signal for Persons Aged 65 Years and Older**



Transparency and vaccine safety are top priorities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). U.S. government agencies use multiple, complementary safety monitoring systems to help detect possible safety signals for vaccines and other medical countermeasures as early as possible and to facilitate further investigation, as appropriate. Often these safety systems detect signals that could be due to factors other than the vaccine itself.

[Learn More](#)

**'Kraken' variant & vaccine stroke risk:  
Everything you need to know**



AMA Update covers a range of health care topics affecting the lives of physicians, residents, medical students and patients. From private practice and health system leaders to scientists and public health officials, hear from the experts in medicine on COVID-19, monkeypox, medical education, advocacy issues, burnout, vaccines and more.

[Watch Here](#)

## What Doctors Wish Patients knew about COVID-19 Reinfection



While many people assumed that getting infected meant higher protection from future encounters with the virus, the latest wave of COVID-19 cases shows that reinfections are becoming more common with newer variants—such as the XBB.1.5 subvariant of Omicron—contributing to second or even third infections. And as SARS-CoV-2 continues to evolve and behave more like its closely related cousins that cause common colds and infect people repeatedly throughout their lives, physicians are urging patients not to let their guards down. The AMA's What Doctors Wish Patients Knew<sup>™</sup> series provides physicians with a platform to share what they want patients to

understand about today's health care headlines, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

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