

## **HEALTH ADVISORY: West Coast Health Alliance issues Consensus WCHA 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations**

**September 18, 2025**

Dear Healthcare Partners,

Please see the attached communication sent through the State of Oregon Health Alert Network.

In early September, the Governors of Oregon, Hawaii, California, and Washington formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA)—a regional coalition ensuring public health policies are informed by science.

On September 17, 2025, the WCHA issued [Consensus WCHA 2025-26 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#) for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 vaccines. WCHA aligned with current CDC recommendations for influenza and RSV immunizations. For COVID-19, the WCHA recommends updated vaccination for:

- All children under 2
- All pregnant women
- Adults 65 and older
- Individuals with risk factors for severe disease, including underlying medical conditions and congregate facility residence
- Anyone who chooses protection from COVID-19

**To implement these recommendations in Oregon:**

- The **Oregon Board of Pharmacy** now allows pharmacists statewide to resume vaccinating individuals 7 years and older without a prescription effective September 17, 2025.
- The **Department of Consumer and Business Services** is working with private insurers to maintain coverage for the vaccine – and issued a bulletin yesterday requiring that all health benefit plans in Oregon cover COVID-19 vaccines in alignment with WCHA recommendations without cost sharing. Medicaid, Medicare, PEBB, and OEBB will continue to cover as before.
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Please be patient as healthcare providers and pharmacists operationalize these changes.

**Benton County Health Services (BCHS) does not currently have any COVID-19 vaccines in stock** but expects to receive updates about supply from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as new guidance is implemented.

**Stay up to date**

- BCHS will continue to provide updates on its [COVID-19 webpage](#).
- West Coast Health Alliance [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Oregon Health Authority [vaccines webpage](#)

Respectfully,



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Public Health Officer



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## State of Oregon

### Health Alert Network

In early September, the Governors of Oregon, Hawaii, California, and Washington formed the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA)—a regional coalition dedicated to safeguarding scientific expertise by ensuring that public health policies are informed by data.

On September 17, 2025, the WCHA issued [Consensus WCHA 2025-26 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#) for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 vaccines. The WCHA aligned with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for influenza and RSV immunizations. For COVID-19, the WCHA recommends that all children under 2, all pregnant women, all adults 65 and older, and any individuals with risk factors for severe disease, including underlying medical conditions and congregate facility residence, receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the Alliance recommends that anyone who chooses protection should have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

**To operationalize these recommendations, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy has changed their rules to allow pharmacists statewide to resume vaccinating individuals 7 years and older without the need for a prescription effective September 17th.** At the same time, the Department of Consumer and Business Services is working with private insurers to maintain coverage for the vaccine – and issued a bulletin yesterday requiring that all health benefit plans in Oregon cover COVID-19 vaccines in alignment with WCHA recommendations without cost sharing. Medicaid, Medicare, PEBB, and OEBB will continue to cover the COVID-19 vaccine as they previously have.

Please be patient as pharmacists statewide adopt these changes.

For further questions, please contact the Public Health Division's Director's Office at [phd-directorsoffice@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:phd-directorsoffice@oha.oregon.gov).