



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
A. John Voelker
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department
of Employee Trust Funds
PO Box 7931
Madison WI 53707-7931
1-877-533-5020 (toll free)
Fax 608-267-4549
etf.wi.gov

Correspondence Memorandum

Date: October 29, 2025
To: Group Insurance Board
From: Tricia Sieg, Pharmacy Benefit Programs Manager
Office of Strategic Health Policy
Subject: Vaccination Coverage Updates

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

Background

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a 17-member group appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The ACIP provides advice and guidance to the HHS secretary, the assistant HHS secretary, and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the most appropriate use of vaccines and related agents to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases in the civilian population.¹

On September 18-19, 2025, the ACIP met to discuss the measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine, the hepatitis B vaccine, and COVID-19 (COVID) vaccine.² Over the two-day meeting, the ACIP voted on several recommendations to HHS and the CDC.

MMRV Vaccine

The ACIP voted to update the pediatric vaccine schedule to no longer recommend the combined MMRV vaccine for children under the age of four. Instead, the ACIP recommended that children in this age group receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine separately.

Hepatitis B Vaccine

The ACIP considered changes to the current guidance, which requires that children receive the hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth. After discussion, the ACIP voted to table the issue, leaving current guidance unchanged.

¹ Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/faca/committees/acip.html>

² Meeting of ACIP Agenda September 18-19, 2025. CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/agendas/final-posted-2025-09-19-508.pdf>

Reviewed and approved by Renee Walk, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy
Electronically Signed 10/23/2025

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COVID Vaccine

The ACIP voted to revise recommendations for COVID vaccines by replacing universal recommendations with updated language. The new guidance states:

- Adults 65 and older: Vaccination based on individual-based decision-making.
- Individuals six months to 64 years: Vaccination based on individual-based decision-making with an emphasis that the risk-benefit is most favorable for individuals who are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease and lowest for individuals who are not at an increased risk, according to the CDC list of COVID-19 risk factors.³

Impact on the Group Health Insurance Program

The CDC director approved the ACIP's recommendations on October 6, 2025, making them official policy.

ETF staff confirmed with Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP) health and pharmacy vendors that these changes will not affect member coverage of MMRV, varicella, or COVID vaccines:

- MMR, MMRV, and varicella vaccines will continue to be covered under the medical benefit for children under the age of four.
- The COVID vaccine will continue to be covered at no cost under both the medical and pharmacy benefits for all non-Medicare members and under Medicare Part B for Medicare members.

What Is Next?

The ACIP is scheduled to meet again on October 22–23, 2025, and in 2026 on February 25–26, June 24–25, and October 21–22.⁴ ETF staff will continue to update the Group Insurance Board (Board) on vaccination recommendations and their potential impact on the GHIP and its members.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.

³ Next ACIP Meeting: Anticipated Votes September 18-19, 2025. CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/acip/meetings/upcoming.html>

⁴ ACIP Meeting Information. Upcoming Meetings. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/meetings/>