

Respiratory Season Success

Flu, COVID-19, and RSV

Tips to Start the Season Strong!



Helpful Tips

Prepare your Systems Before the Season

Ensure your EHR/EMR, scheduling processes, standing orders, and billing systems are ready for respiratory season. Additionally, clean up IIS inventory by deactivating expired lots. Preparing now can prevent delays, missed opportunities, and billing issues.

Use Last Year's Data to Plan Orders

Review your practice's monthly vaccine administration (not just your order history) from the 25–26 respiratory season. Use the Recommended Order Quantity (ROQ) calculator before placing vaccine orders.

Manage Inventory and Storage Carefully

Be strategic with vaccine inventory and storage. Consider placing smaller, more frequent orders when possible to help reduce waste. For COVID-19 vaccines, keep most inventory in the freezer (Moderna) or ultra-cold freezer (Pfizer blue cap) and only thaw what is likely to be used in the near future.

Prevent Vaccine Expiration

Check inventory every week and follow a first-expire, first-out approach. Move vaccines with the earliest expiration dates to the front and put "Use First" stickers on doses that should be used next.

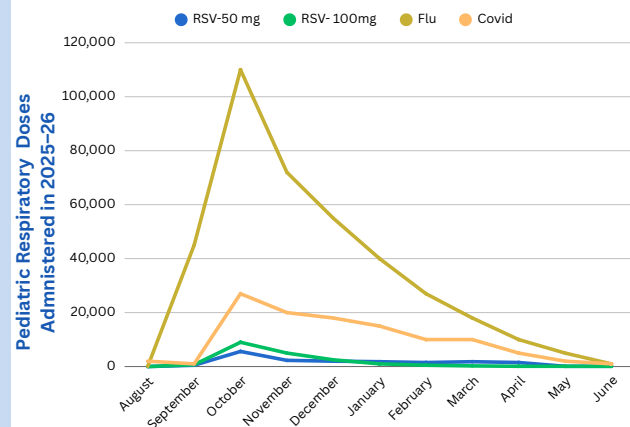
Make Every Visit a Vaccine Opportunity

Review vaccination status at every visit and offer all recommended respiratory immunizations when patients are eligible. Co-administration is safe and effective, and vaccinating at the same visit reduces missed opportunities while improving protection before respiratory viruses begin circulating.



Important Reminder

Most flu, COVID-19, and RSV doses are administered in October and November, so plan inventory accordingly, then lower orders as demand declines later in the season.



Additional RSV Ordering Suggestions:

- Avoid ordering large quantities of RSV doses after November, as demand and administration decrease significantly.
- In November, review last year's RSV administration data from January through March to determine ordering quantities. Avoid stockpiling doses that may go unused in the second half of the season.

COVID-19 Callout:

- Thaw COVID-19 vaccines by individual dose rather than by the box to prevent wasting unused doses.
- When moving from freezer to fridge, protect doses from light.
- Depending on brand, COVID-19 vaccines reach their shelf life at 60 to 90 days once moved into the refrigerator.

Flu and COVID-19 Clinics:

- Plan larger flu and COVID-19 clinics later in October, as vaccine supply may be more limited in September and early October.