



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: September 25, 2025

Contact: Rick Rosen, MD, MPH, frosen@co.slo.ca.us, 805-781-5500

COVID-19 Update: Vaccine Eligibility and Insurance Coverage in California

New Law and Regional Alliance Support Vaccine Access for All Ages

Quick Summary

California has joined Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii in the [West Coast Health Alliance \(WCHA\)](#). On September 17, the alliance released [2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations](#) informed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) (PDF), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to protect access to COVID-19 vaccines for all persons aged 6 months and older

The State also [updated state law](#) to ensure Californians have access to life-saving vaccines and screenings by ensuring that:

- Health insurance coverage by California regulated plans continues for Californians looking to receive immunizations recommended by CDPH at no cost
- Healthcare providers, including pharmacists, have liability protection from using off-label vaccines.

Stay informed by checking the [Public Health For All](#) webpage from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Vaccine Coverage in California

Under [Assembly Bill 144](#), CDPH's recommended vaccines will continue to be covered by health care insurers regulated by the [Department of Managed Health Care \(PDF\)](#). This means COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines will continue to be covered by health plans (including Medi-Cal managed care plans) and insurance companies, in most instances. It may not apply to Medicare Advantage plans or to specialized health care service plans. Visit the [Public Health for All Vaccines Questions and Answers](#) page to learn more about access.

2025–26 Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

California's recommendations are the same as they were last year: anyone 6 months or above can get a COVID-19 or flu vaccine ([download the printable PDF](#)):

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza (Flu)	RSV
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 6–23 months All 2–18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19 All who are in close contact with others with risk factors [1] All who choose protection [1] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 6 months and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All younger than 8 months [2] All 8–19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum, or lactating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum, or lactating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32–36 weeks gestational age [3]
Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 65 years and older All younger than 65 years with risk factors All who are in close contact with others with risk factors All who choose protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 75 years and older [3] All 50–74 years with risk factors [3]