

Vaccines and Older Adults



Vaccine Overview

- Created to protect against infectious illness
- Provides extra protection to specific age groups
 - Older adults
 - Immune-compromised individuals
 - Babies and children too young to be vaccinated
- Prevent illness and death
- Most covered by Medicare and private insurance

STAYING HEALTHY ACROSS GENERATIONS: Vaccines are Essential for All Ages

Grandparents are Essential Caregivers

Grandparents are often primary caregivers or routinely supporting parents.



8 MILLION CHILDREN live in households headed by a grandparent or other relatives



1 IN 4 CHILDREN UNDER 5 are being cared for by grandparents on a regular basis



1.3 MILLION GRANDPARENTS in the labor force are responsible for a grandchild living with them

Impact of COVID-19 on Grandparents and Older Caregivers

The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Older adults have to balance the health risk of exposure to COVID-19 with consequences of social isolation and financial stability.



8 OUT OF 10 COVID-19 DEATHS reported in the U.S. are adults 65+



20 MILLION ADULTS OVER 55 have jobs that require them to leave home, putting them at greater risk for contracting COVID-19



49% CHILD CARE SLOTS may be permanently lost due to COVID-19 which may leave grandparents as primary back-up care

Vaccines Aren't Just for Kids – They Protect All Generations

Staying up to date on vaccines for the flu, pneumonia and whooping cough are important to protect both older adults and children - and soon a vaccine for COVID-19 will also be critical for both age groups.



Research on infants with whooping cough found **83% WERE EXPOSED** by the baby's immediate or extended family



Flu, pneumococcal disease, shingles and whooping cough **COST \$27 BILLION TO TREAT EACH YEAR** in adults over the age of 50



ONLY 68% OF ADULTS 65+ were vaccinated for the flu even though **90% OF FLU-RELATED DEATHS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS** were among that age group

Grandparenting Today Requires Taking Care of Yourself in Order to Be There for Children



TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

Grandparents are a great resource to encourage other grandparents to get vaccinated – second only to their healthcare provider. To get specific information on the vaccines for you, take the CDC [Adult Vaccine Quiz](#).



PROTECT THE NEXT GENERATION.

Experts agree on an [immunization schedule](#) for children. Timing is important, even in the midst of a pandemic.



SHARE YOUR STORY.

Write a letter to the editor, post on social media, or present at a local community group about the importance of vaccines for older adults. www.BandageOfHonor.org



STAY INFORMED.

Soon there will be new vaccine(s) available to beat COVID-19 – [know the facts](#), vaccines save lives.

This infographic was made possible with support from Pfizer. The ideas, findings and conclusions presented are those of Generations United alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Pfizer.

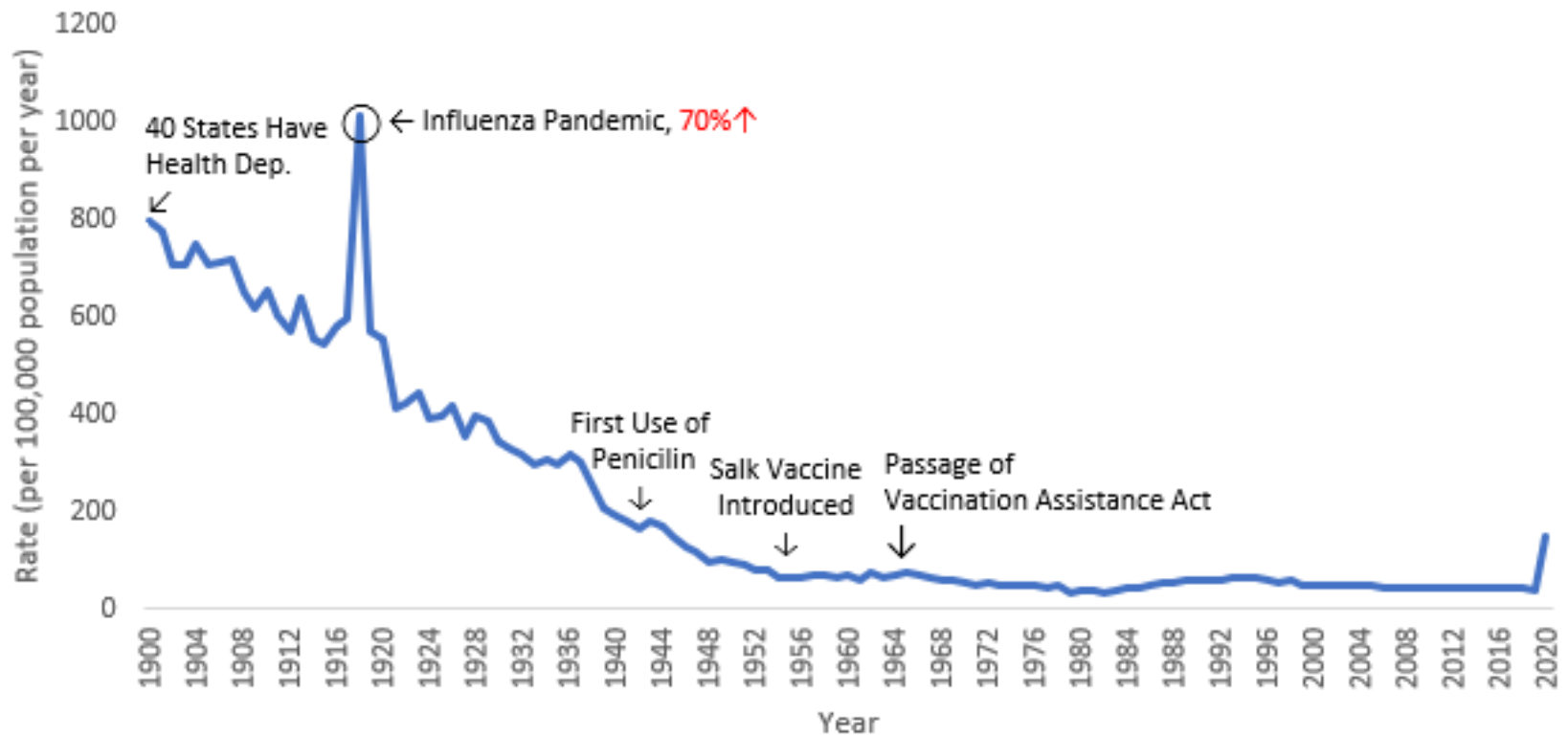
References:
U.S. Census Bureau; AARP; Generations United; ZERO TO THREE; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
For full citations, visit www.gu.org.

generations united
Because we're stronger together™

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

Crude Death Rate* for Infectious Diseases United States, 1900-2020



Which vaccines are recommended for older adults?

- Updated COVID-19 Vaccine*
- Influenza*
- RSV (new)*
- Pneumococcal (Pneumonia)
- Shingles
- Tdap/Td
- Others**

COVID-19 Vaccines for 2023-2024 Season

- Every adult should get 1 dose of the 2023-2024 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine
 - At least two months after getting your last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine
 - No additional dose (booster) recommendation at this time for general public
- Ages 65 and older are still priority to be vaccinated

Reasons to Get Your Vaccine

- According to the CDC, more than 81% of COVID-19 deaths occur in people over age 65.
 - The number of deaths among people over 65 is 97 times higher than the number of deaths among people ages 18-29 years.
- A person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases as the number of underlying medical conditions they have increases.
- Getting vaccinated is one of the best things you can do to prevent hospitalization and death due to COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines are Covered by Insurance

- Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a convenient location
- Check with your insurance provider and/or site to confirm the site is in-network
- If you do not have insurance, the CDC's [Bridge Access Program](#) offers COVID-19 vaccines at no cost for adults 18 years and older without health insurance and adults whose health insurance does not provide zero-cost coverage for COVID-19 vaccines

- [Vaccines in 22701](#)

Influenza

- All adults should get annual flu vaccine
- Adults 65 or older should get high-dose adjuvanted flu vaccine
- Persons with egg allergy: should receive influenza vaccine; no longer contraindication
- Talk with your healthcare professional to see which one is best for you
- Treatment is recommended as soon as possible for any patient with suspected or confirmed influenza

RSV Vaccine

- Since June 2023, ACIP has recommended the first two RSV vaccines for adults over 60 using shared clinical decision making
 - Arexvy (GSK)
 - Abrysvo (Pfizer)
- Both are single dose
- Generally well-tolerated with an acceptable safety profile
- Most common side effects are similar to those of other vaccines
 - Pain at injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain

Pneumococcal (Pneumonia)

- Adults 65 and older
 - Vaxneuvance, Prevnar 20, Pneumovax 23
- Consult your healthcare provider to see which vaccine is best for you
- Medicare part B covers 100% of the cost for two different pneumococcal vaccines

Shingles

- 1 out of every 3 people in the US will develop shingles in their lifetime
- If you've ever had chickenpox, you can get shingles.
- As you age, the risk of shingles increases.

- CDC recommends two doses of recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV, Shingrix) in those 50 and older.
 - 2-6 months between doses
- Covered by Medicare Part B for no out-of-pocket expense as of 2023

Other Vaccines

- Td or Tdap booster dose every 10 years
 - Or 5 years after a severe dirty wound or burn
- Recommended by travel
 - Cholera, Polio, Yellow Fever (etc.,)
- Specific Health Conditions/Concerns
 - Immune Compromised

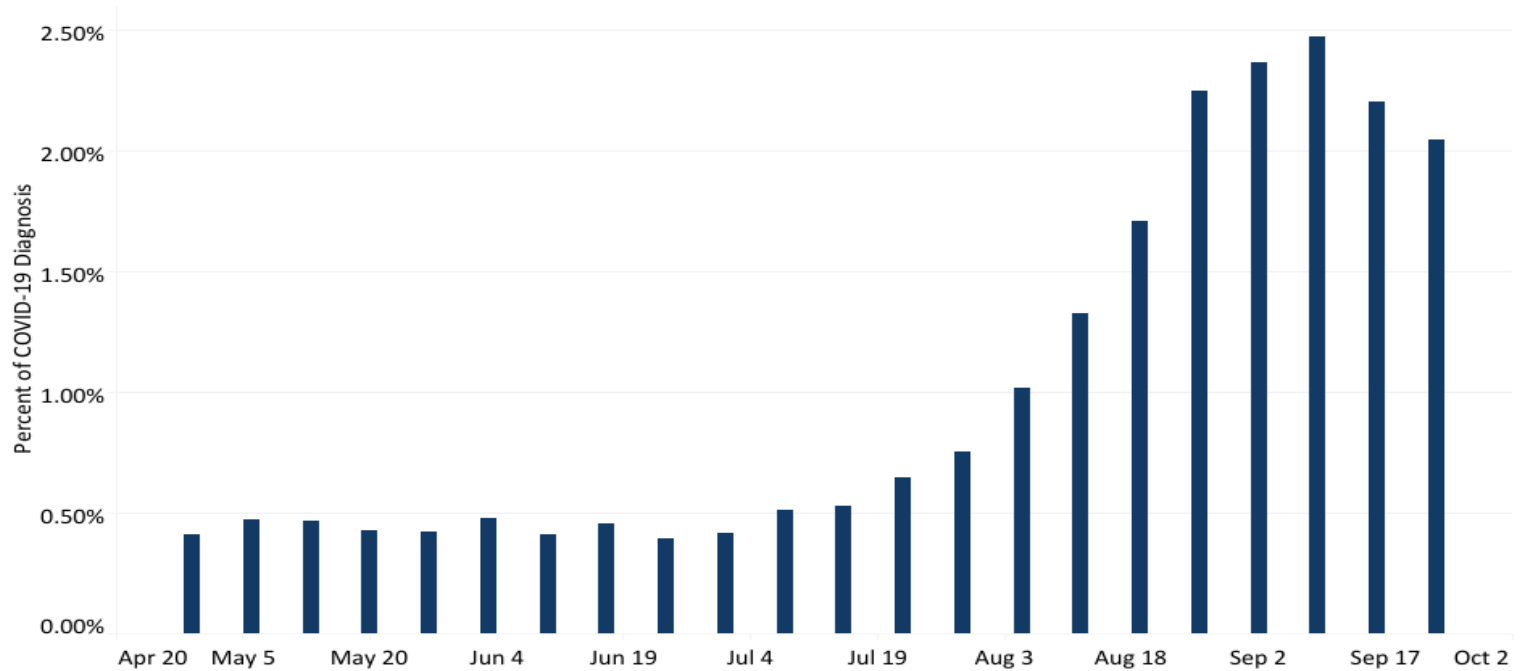
Virginia COVID-19 Trends: past 6 months

2.05 percent of emergency department visits were diagnosed for COVID-19 in the week ending 09/23/2023

4 week trend in COVID-19 Diagnosis in ED Visits



6.8% points lower than the previous week ending 09/16/2023

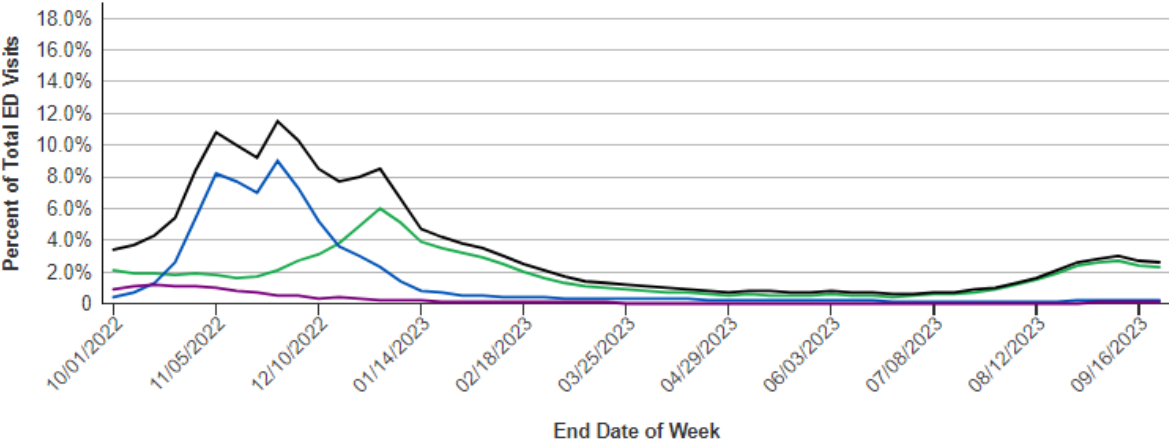


Respiratory Virus Activity- Virginia

Respiratory Virus Activity

Select your state or territory:

Virginia



● COVID-19 ● Flu ● RSV ● Combined

[Dataset on data.cdc.gov](#)

[Link to Dataset](#)

Data Table



Findings for each respiratory virus type are presented individually and combined for all three as a percent of total emergency department visits. Additional information, including on participating states and jurisdictions, available at the [Companion Guide: NSSP Emergency Department Data on Respiratory Illness](#).



COVID-19 in Virginia: Cases



Dashboard Updated: 9/26/2023
Data Through 9/25/2023 Next update Tuesday

Cases by Date of Illness 9/19-9/25
3,835

Deaths by Date of Death 9/19-9/25
2

Cases by Date of Illness 9/12-9/18
5,789

Deaths by Date of Death 9/12-9/18
3

Geographic Selector
(Affects Bar Chart)

Virginia

Select Date Range
(Affects Map and Bar Cha...)

Past 13 Weeks

Select Counts or Rates
(Affects Map and Bar Chart)

- Counts
- Rates per 100,000

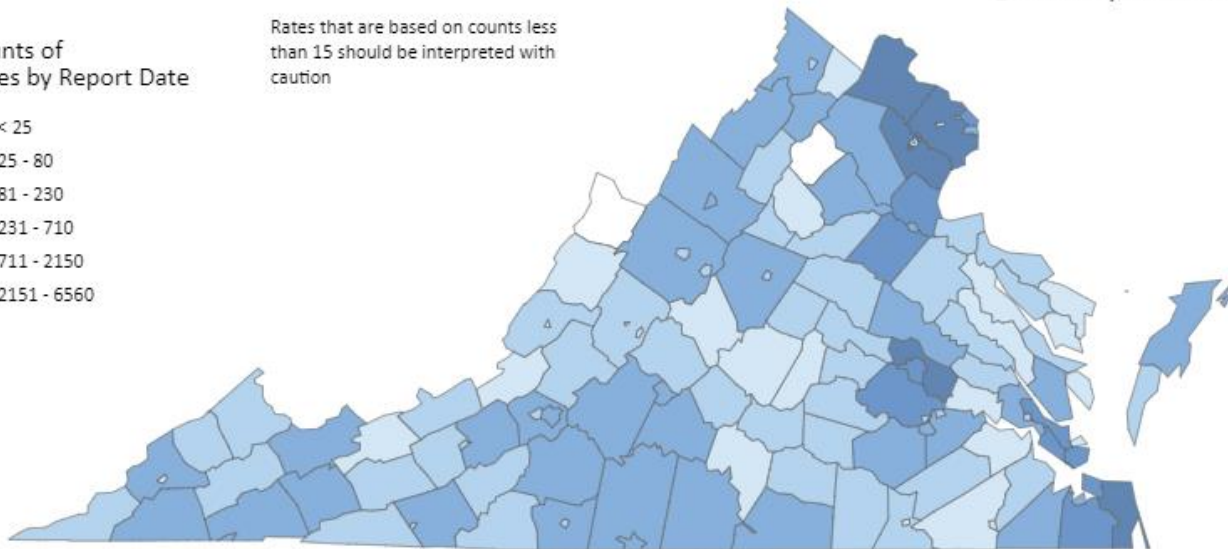
Select Measure
(Affects Map and Bar Chart)

- Cases by Date of Illness
- Cases by Report Date
- Deaths by Date of Death

Counts of
Cases by Report Date

- < 25
- 25 - 80
- 81 - 230
- 231 - 710
- 711 - 2150
- 2151 - 6560

Rates that are based on counts less than 15 should be interpreted with caution



Vaccine	Age Recommendation	Dose(s)
Updated 2023 COVID-19	All adults	1
Flu	All adults	1 annually
RSV	60 and older	1
Pneumonia	Varies based on health conditions	1-2
Shingles	50 and older	2
Tdap	Booster every 10 years	1