



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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Local Public Health Recommends Vaccines for Winter Virus Season

XENIA, OHIO – Greene County Public Health (GCPH) is encouraging residents to stay up to date on recommended vaccinations to protect against COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) during the winter respiratory virus season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and GCPH recommend the updated **2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine**, the **2025–2026 flu vaccine**, and **RSV vaccination** to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

“We continue to see COVID-19, flu, and RSV circulating in Greene County,” said Melissa Howell, Health Commissioner at Greene County Public Health. “Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to stay healthy and protect loved ones, especially during the holiday season.”

Receiving COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines at the same visit is safe. In 2023, more than **916,000 people were hospitalized**, and **75,500 died** from COVID-19 in the United States. During the **2023–2024 flu season**, an estimated **44,900 deaths** occurred due to flu complications. RSV causes tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year among **young children and older adults**, with activity typically peaking in **December and January**.

The CDC recommends:

- **Updated 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccination** for everyone aged **6 months and older**
- **Annual flu vaccination** for everyone aged **6 months and older**
- **RSV vaccination** for adults aged **60 years and older**, based on shared clinical decision-making
- **RSV protection for infants** through a maternal RSV vaccine during pregnancy or an RSV antibody after birth

For more information about recommended vaccines, visit www.cdc.gov or visit the Greene County Public Health website at www.greenecophoh.gov

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