

[View in browser](#)

YOUR LOCAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST

K A T E L Y N J E T E L I N A

TRANSLATING PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE FOR EVERYDAY USE

Updated 2023 fall vaccine chart

Plus a note on insurance and free antigen tests

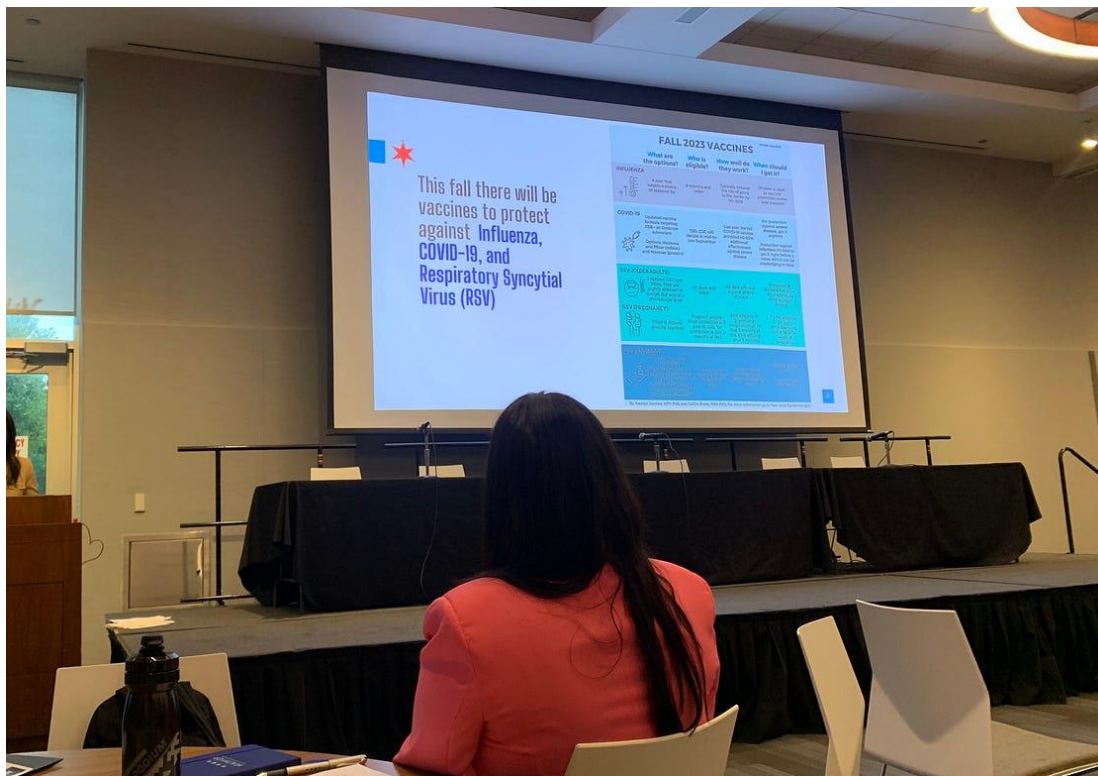
[KATELYN JETELINA](#)

SEP 21 · PAID



[READ IN APP](#) ↗






I spied the YLE fall 2023 vaccine chart in the wild! So glad to see it's getting used. Here's an update and two random but relevant notes regarding Covid-19 tools.



Chicago Department of Health

Chart updates include...

- **Covid-19 vaccine:** [Eligibility](#) determined. [Ideal timing](#) after infection added.
- **Flu vaccine:** Updated effectiveness to match this year's strain. (We got great news that the vaccine matches circulating strains well— The Southern Hemisphere reported a [52% effectiveness](#) against hospitalization.)

FALL 2023 VACCINES Version: Sept 2023				
	What are the options?	Who is eligible?	How well do they work?	When should I get it?
INFLUENZA	 <p>A shot that targets 4 strains of seasonal flu</p>	6 months and older	Reduces the risk of going to the doctor by 53%	October is ideal, as vaccine protection wanes over a season
COVID-19	 <p>Updated vaccine formula targeting XBB – an Omicron subvariant</p> <p>Options: Moderna and Pfizer (mRNA). Novavax (protein) available soon</p>	6 months and older	Last year, the fall COVID-19 vaccine provided 40-60% additional effectiveness against severe disease	<p>Protection against severe disease: Get now</p> <p>Protection against infection: Best to get it right before a wave, which can be challenging to time</p> <p>Recently infected? Wait at least 3-4 months</p>
RSV (OLDER ADULTS)	 <p>2 options: GSK and Pfizer. They are slightly different in design, but only at a microscopic level</p>	60 years and older	82-86% efficacy against severe disease	Now; no need to juggle timing as protection is durable
RSV (PREGNANCY)	 <p>Pfizer is actively seeking approval</p>	Pregnant people (then protection will pass to baby for protection in first 6 months of life)	82% efficacy in preventing hospitalization in first 3 months of life. 69% efficacy after 6 months	It's not available yet but once approved, get at 24 to 36 weeks of pregnancy
RSV MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY	 <p>This is not a vaccine (doesn't teach the body to make antibodies) but rather a proactive medication (provides antibodies)</p>	All infants <8 months. High-risk infants 8-19 months	Reduces risk of hospitalization and healthcare visits by ~80%	<p>Will be available soon.</p> <p>Protection lasts 4-6 months</p>

By: Katelyn Jetelina, MPH PHD and Caitlin Rivers, MPH PHD. For more information go to Your Local Epidemiologist

Two random, but relevant notes

1. **Insurance coverage for Covid-19 vaccines.** There are many reports that people are being asked to pay for their Covid-19 vaccines. To be clear: **no one should be paying for a vaccine.**
 - a. **Private insurance** companies are mandated to cover this vaccine with no copay. *What has changed since last year?* Insurers are no longer required to pay for “out-of-network”. You may need to get your vaccine at your doctor’s office if your pharmacy is not in-network with your insurance plan.
 - b. **Uninsured or underinsured adults:** CVS/Walgreens are required by federal law to cover your vaccine at no cost to you, thanks to the new [Bridge Program](#). This is just for Covid-19, not for RSV, unfortunately.
 - c. **Uninsured or underinsured kids:** [Vaccines for Children](#) cover all kid’s vaccines, not just Covid-19, for those that cannot pay.
2. **Free Covid-19 tests** are coming back! Starting Monday (Sept 25), households can receive 4 free rapid tests through USPS again. Order here: [COVIDtests.gov](#). Shipments will start Oct. 2.