

Influenza and RSV Vaccination: Understanding Key Terms and Recommendations

This document outlines key terms and recommendations related to reporting influenza and RSV vaccination for the purpose of NHSN public health surveillance. Facilities should use these definitions when reporting data through the COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Modules in the NHSN Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) Component.

This document will be updated annually to reflect any changes as influenza and RSV vaccination guidance evolves. Please use the definitions for the reporting period associated with the reporting weeks included in your data submission.

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Reporting Period: 2026-2027 Influenza/Respiratory Virus Season (July 2026–June 2027)

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the **NHSN Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module** for the reporting period of the 2026-2027 influenza season.

Influenza:

Count individuals as vaccinated if they received an updated 2026-2027 influenza vaccine any time from when it first became available after July 2026.

(For more information, please refer to: [2026-2027 Flu Season | Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests)

A resident with a newly positive Influenza viral test result who received the updated 2026-2027 influenza vaccine any time after July 2026 should be counted in the vaccinated category if vaccine was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive Influenza test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received the vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

RSV:

Count individuals as vaccinated with RSV vaccine if they received a dose of RSV vaccine any time from when it first became available in May 2023.

CDC recommends the following individuals receive the RSV vaccine:

- Everyone ages 75 and older
- People ages 50–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions (such as lung or heart disease), or they live in nursing homes

(For more information, please refer to: [RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) Immunizations | CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests):

A resident with a newly positive RSV viral test result who received an RSV vaccine any time since May 2023 should be counted in the vaccinated category if that dose was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive RSV test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

Examples: Annual Influenza Vaccine (2026 – 2027 Influenza Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2026-2027 influenza season?
- Mary received an influenza vaccine in September 2026. - Mary tested positive for influenza 15 days after receiving the vaccine.	Mary is counted in question #2b because she received an influenza vaccine for the 2026-2027 influenza season. Since Mary received an influenza vaccine for the 2026-2027 influenza season 14 days or more before the positive test result, she would be included in the following questions: 3b (Influenza positive test) 3bi (positive test and vaccinated with influenza vaccine)
- Josh declined influenza vaccine for philosophical reasons. - Josh tested positive for influenza 2 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital yesterday.	Josh is not counted in question #2b because he did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2026-2027 influenza season. Since Josh did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2026-2027 influenza season but tested positive 2 days ago and was admitted to the hospital yesterday, he would only be included in the following questions: 3b (influenza positive test) 4b (hospitalized and a positive influenza test in the last 10 days)

Examples: RSV Vaccine (2026 – 2027 Respiratory Virus Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2026-2027 RSV season?
- Laila is 78 years old and received an RSV vaccine in September 2026. - Laila has NOT tested positive for RSV or influenza.	Laila is counted in question #2c because she received an RSV vaccine. Laila does not have a newly positive RSV test nor was she hospitalized; therefore, she would not be included in the count for the case and hospitalization questions.
- Joe is 65 years old and has heart disease. He is planning to receive an RSV vaccine but has not yet had an opportunity to do so. - Joe tested positive for RSV 5 days ago and was admitted to the hospital today for shortness of breath.	Joe is not counted in question #2c because he has not yet received an RSV vaccine. Since Joe did not receive an RSV vaccine but did test positive 5 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital today, he would only be included in the following categories for the case and hospitalization questions: 3c (RSV positive test) 4c (hospitalized and a positive RSV test in the last 10 days)

Reporting Period: 2025-2026 Influenza/Respiratory Virus Season (July 2025—June 2026)

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the **NHSN Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module** for the reporting period of the 2025-2026 influenza season.

Influenza:

Count individuals as vaccinated if they received updated 2025-2026 influenza vaccine any time from when it first became available after July 2025.

(For more information, please refer to: [Adult Immunization Schedule Notes | Vaccines & Immunizations | CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests)

A resident with a newly positive Influenza viral test result who received the updated 2025-2026 influenza vaccine any time after July 2025 should be counted in the vaccinated category if vaccine was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive Influenza test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received the vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

RSV:

Count individuals as vaccinated with RSV vaccine if they received a dose of RSV vaccine any time from when it first became available in May 2023.

CDC recommends the following individuals receive the RSV vaccine:

- Everyone ages 75 and older
- People ages 50–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions (such as lung or heart disease), or they live in nursing homes

(For more information, please refer to: [RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) Immunizations | CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests):

A resident with a newly positive RSV viral test result who received an RSV vaccine any time since May 2023 should be counted in the vaccinated category if that dose was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive RSV test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

Examples: Annual Influenza Vaccine (2025 – 2026 Influenza Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2025-2026 influenza season?
- Mary received an influenza vaccine in August 2025. - Mary tested positive for influenza 15 days after receiving the vaccine.	Mary is counted in question #2b because she received an influenza vaccine for the 2025-2026 influenza season. Since Mary received an influenza vaccine for the 2025-2026 influenza season 14 days or more before the positive test result, she would be included in the following questions: 3b (Influenza positive test) 3bi (positive test and vaccinated with influenza vaccine)
- Josh declined influenza vaccine for philosophical reasons. - Josh tested positive for influenza 2 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital yesterday.	Josh is not counted in question #2b because he did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2025-2026 influenza season. Since Josh did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2025-2026 influenza season but tested positive 2 days ago and was admitted to the hospital yesterday, he would only be included in the following questions: 3b (influenza positive test) 4b (hospitalized and a positive influenza test in the last 10 days)

Examples: RSV Vaccine (2025 – 2026 Respiratory Virus Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2025-2026 RSV season?
- Laila is 78 years old and received an RSV vaccine in September 2025. - Laila has NOT tested positive for RSV or influenza.	Laila is counted in question #2c because she received an RSV vaccine. Laila does not have a newly positive RSV test nor was she hospitalized; therefore, she would not be included in the count for the case and hospitalization questions.
- Joe is 65 years old and has heart disease. He is planning to receive an RSV vaccine but has not yet had an opportunity to do so. - Joe tested positive for RSV 5 days ago and was admitted to the hospital today for shortness of breath.	Joe is not counted in question #2c because he has not yet received a RSV vaccine. Since Joe did not receive an RSV vaccine but did test positive 5 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital today, he would only be included in the following categories for the case and hospitalization questions: 3c (RSV positive test) 4c (hospitalized and a positive RSV test in the last 10 days)

Reporting Period: 2024-2025 Influenza/Respiratory Virus Season (July 2024—June 2025)

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the **NHSN Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module** for the reporting period of the 2024-2025 influenza season.

Influenza:

Count individuals as vaccinated if they received updated 2024-2025 influenza vaccine any time from when it first became available after July 2024.

(For more information, please refer to: [CDC Recommends Updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines for Fall/Winter Virus Season](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests)

A resident with a newly positive Influenza viral test result who received the updated 2024-2025 influenza vaccine any time after July 2024 should be counted in the vaccinated category if vaccine was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive Influenza test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received the vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

RSV:

Count individuals as vaccinated with RSV vaccine if they received a dose of RSV vaccine any time from when it first became available in May 2023.

CDC recommends the following individuals receive the RSV vaccine:

- Everyone ages 75 and older
- People ages 60–74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV, meaning they have certain chronic medical conditions (such as lung or heart disease), or they live in nursing homes

(For more information, please refer to: [CDC Updates RSV Vaccination Recommendation for Adults](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#))

For cases (newly positive tests):

A resident with a newly positive RSV viral test result who received an RSV vaccine any time since May 2023 should be counted in the vaccinated category if that dose was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, a resident with a newly positive RSV test result is counted in the vaccinated category if they received vaccine at least 14 days before the positive test.

Examples: Annual Influenza Vaccine (2024 – 2025 Influenza Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2024-2025 influenza season?
- Mary received an influenza vaccine in August 2024. - Mary tested positive for influenza 15 days after receiving the vaccine.	Mary is counted in question #2b because she received an influenza vaccine for the 2024-2025 influenza season. Since Mary received an influenza vaccine for the 2024-2025 influenza season 14 days or more before the positive test result, she would be included in the following questions: 3b (Influenza positive test) 3bi (positive test and vaccinated with influenza vaccine)
- Josh declined influenza vaccine for philosophical reasons. - Josh tested positive for influenza 2 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital yesterday.	Josh is not counted in question #2b because he did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2024-2025 influenza season. Since Josh did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2024-2025 influenza season but tested positive 2 days ago and was admitted to the hospital yesterday, he would only be included in the following questions: 3b (influenza positive test) 4b (hospitalized and a positive influenza test in the last 10 days)

Examples: RSV Vaccine (2024 – 2025 Respiratory Virus Season)

Examples	How is this individual counted in the Respiratory Pathogens and Vaccination Module for the 2024-2025 RSV season?
- Laila is 78 years old and received an RSV vaccine in September 2024. - Laila has NOT tested positive for RSV or Influenza.	Laila is counted in question #2c because she received an RSV vaccine. Laila does not have a newly positive RSV test nor was she hospitalized; therefore, she would not be included in the count for the case and hospitalization questions.
- Joe is 65 years old and has heart disease. He is planning to receive an RSV vaccine but has not yet had an opportunity to do so. - Joe tested positive for RSV 5 days ago and was admitted to the hospital today for shortness of breath.	Joe is not counted in question #2c because he has not yet received an RSV vaccine. Since Joe did not receive an RSV vaccine but did test positive 5 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital today, he would only be included in the following categories for the case and hospitalization questions: 3c (RSV positive test) 4c (hospitalized and a positive RSV test in the last 10 days)

Reporting Period: 2023-2024 Influenza Season (July 2023–June 2024)

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the **NHSN Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Modules and the LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogen Module (specifically, the Influenza/RSV optional tab)** for the reporting period of the 2023-2024 influenza season.

*Individuals are considered Up to date with their **influenza vaccine** for the 2023-2024 influenza season for the purpose of NHSN surveillance if they meet the following criteria:*

Received an influenza vaccine any time from when it first became available in July of 2023

For the **Long-Term Care Facility Influenza and RSV Tab** (LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogen Module – Influenza/RSV optional tab) only: A resident with a newly positive Influenza viral test result and has received an influenza vaccine any time from when it first became available in July of 2023 should be counted in the up-to-date category if that dose was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, for the Influenza/RSV tab, a resident with a newly positive Influenza test result is counted in the Up-to-date category if they received the vaccines required to be Up to date at least 14 days before the positive test.

Please see examples in the table below.

*Individuals are considered up to date with their **RSV vaccine** for 2023-2024 for the purpose of NHSN surveillance if they meet the following criteria*:*

Received RSV vaccination any time from when it first became available in May 2023

* RSV vaccination is currently approved and recommended for administration as a single dose; sufficient evidence does not exist at this time to determine the need for revaccination.

For the Long-Term Care Facility Influenza and RSV Tab (LTCF COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogen Module- Influenza/RSV optional tab) only: A resident with a newly positive RSV viral test result and has received an RSV vaccine any time from when it first became available in May 2023 should be counted in the Up to date category if that dose was received 14 days or more before the specimen collection of the newly positive test result. In other words, for the Influenza/RSV tab, a resident with a newly positive RSV test result is counted in the Up to date category if they received the vaccines required to be Up to date at least 14 days before the positive test.

Please see examples in the table below.

Influenza and RSV Vaccination: Key Terms

Examples: Up to date with Influenza Vaccine (2023 – 2024 Influenza Season)

Example	Is this individual considered up to date for the Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Modules for the 2023-2024 influenza season?	Is this individual included in the up to date category for RIFC Pathway for the 2023-2024 influenza season?
- Mary received an influenza vaccine in September 2023. - Mary tested positive for Influenza 3 days ago.	Yes, Mary is up to date with influenza vaccination because she received an influenza vaccine for the 2023-2024 influenza season. Mary is counted in question #2.	Yes, Mary is considered up to date with influenza vaccination for the Influenza/RSV tab because she received an influenza vaccine for the 2023-2024 influenza season 14 days or more before the positive test result. Mary would be included in the following categories for the Influenza/RSV tab: - Influenza Positive Test count - Influenza Up to Date count
- Josh declined influenza vaccine for philosophical reasons. - Josh tested positive for Influenza 2 days ago and was also admitted to the hospital yesterday.	No, Josh is not up to date with influenza vaccination because he did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2023-2024 influenza season. Josh is counted in question #2.2.	No, Josh is not considered up to date with influenza vaccination for the Influenza/RSV tab because he did not receive an influenza vaccine for the 2023-2024 influenza season. Josh would be included in the following categories for the Influenza/RSV tab: - Influenza Positive Test count - Influenza NOT Up to Date count (auto-populated by the system) - Hospitalizations with a positive Influenza Test

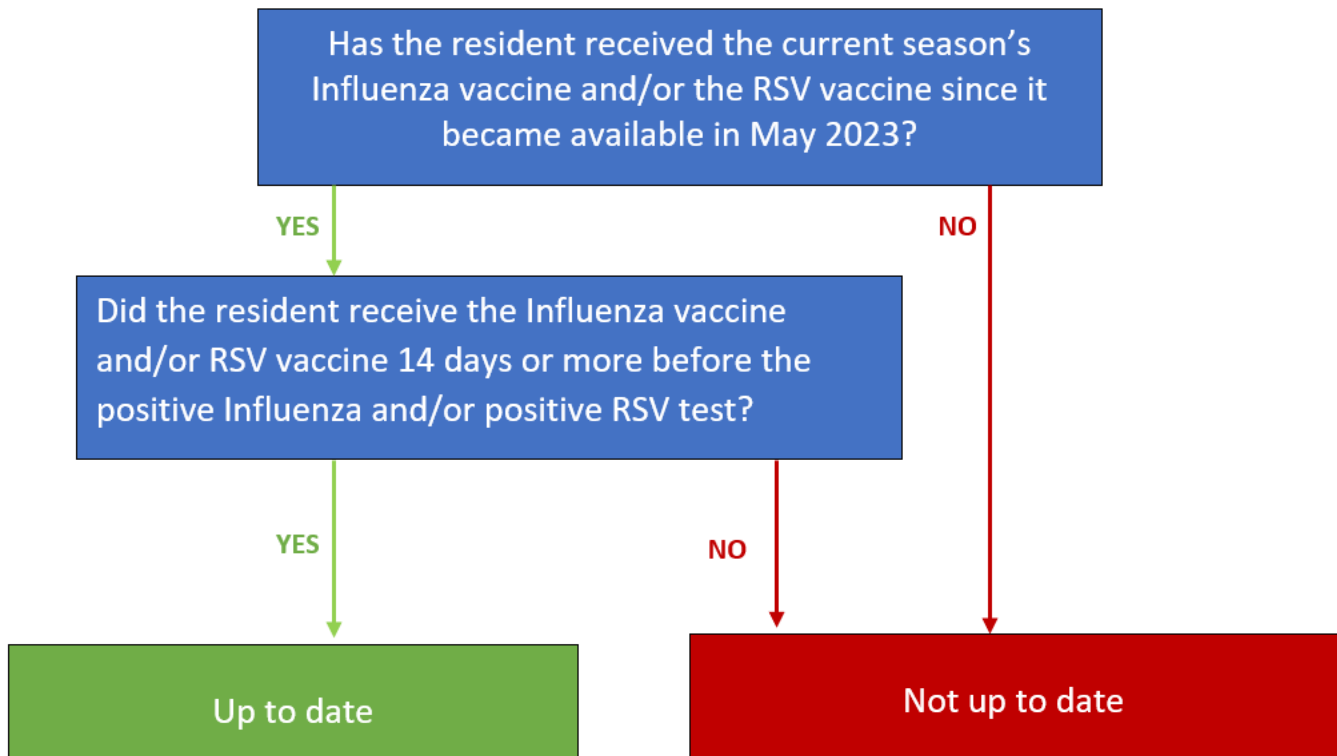
Influenza and RSV Vaccination: Key Terms

Examples: Up to date with RSV Vaccine (2023-2024)

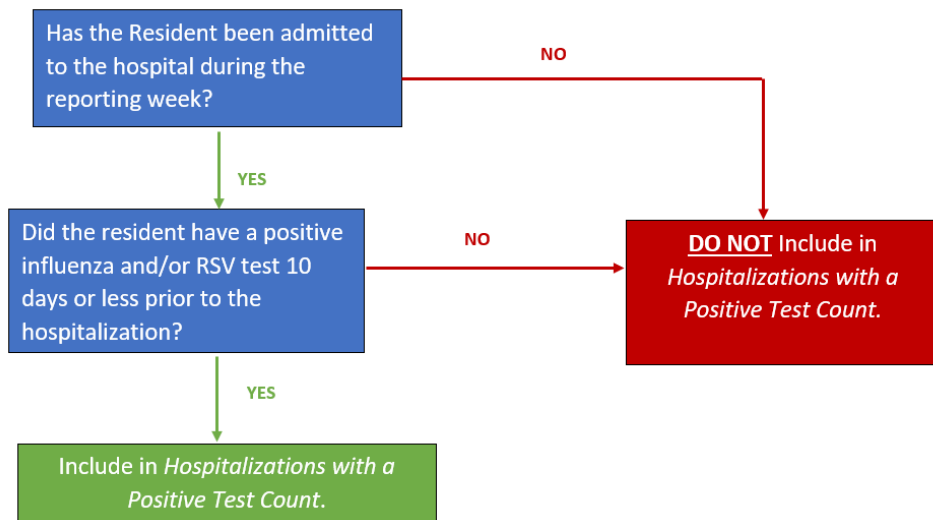
Example	Is this individual considered up to date with RSV vaccination for the Respiratory Pathogens Vaccination Modules for 2023-2024?	Is this individual included in the up to date with RSV vaccination category for RIFC Pathway for 2023-2024?
- Laila received a RSV vaccine in September 2023. - Laila has NOT tested positive for RSV or Influenza.	Yes, Laila is up to date with RSV vaccination because she received RSV vaccine. Laila is counted in question #3.	No, Laila does not have a newly positive RSV test nor was she hospitalized; therefore, she would not be included in the Influenza/RSV tab at this time.
- Joe is planning to receive an RSV vaccine but has not yet had an opportunity to do so. - Joe tested positive for RSV 5 days ago and was admitted to the hospital today for shortness of breath.	No, Joe is not up to date with RSV vaccination because he has not yet received an RSV vaccine. Joe is counted in question #3.3.	No, Joe is not considered up to date with RSV vaccination for the Influenza/RSV tab because he did not receive an RSV vaccine. Josh would be included in the following categories for the Influenza/RSV tab: - RSV Positive Test count - RSV NOT Up to Date count (auto-populated by the system) - Hospitalizations with a positive RSV Test

Appendix 1a: Decision Tree: Receipt of Influenza and RSV vaccines during the current Influenza/Respiratory Virus Season for the Long-Term Care COVID-19/Respiratory Pathogens Modules (Influenza/RSV)

Vaccination Status for Residents with Newly Confirmed Influenza and/or RSV Test



Hospitalizations with a positive Influenza test and/or Positive RSV test



Vaccination Status of hospitalizations with a positive Influenza test and/or positive RSV test

