Evidence to Recommendations (partial) for 2025–2026 COVID-19 Vaccination

Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division

June 25, 2025

Evidence to Recommendations (EtR) Framework

EtR Domain	Question(s)
Public Health Problem	• Is the problem of public health importance?
Benefits and Harms	• How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects? • How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects? • Do the desirable effects outweigh the undesirable effects?
Values	• Does the target population feel the desirable effects are large relative to the undesirable effects? • Is there important variability in how patients value the outcome?
Acceptability	• Is the intervention acceptable to key stakeholders?
Feasibility	• Is the intervention feasible to implement?
Resource Use	• Is the intervention a reasonable and efficient allocation of resources?
Equity	• What would be the impact of the intervention on health equity?

Work Group Interpretations

- May 29th work group call
  - Public Health Problem domain of the Evidence to Recommendations (EtR) Framework was presented
- June 5th work group call
  - Benefits and Harms domain of the EtR was presented
- *June 12th planned work group call*
  - Additional EtR domains were planned to be presented
  - Final work group polling not completed because call was not convened

Summary
Public Health Problem

- Burden from COVID-19 has been trending down year over year since 2021, but substantial morbidity and mortality continues to occur.
- Higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalization and deaths occur in the oldest and youngest age groups.
  - Highest rates in adults ages ≥65 years and infants ages <6 months
- Children ages <2 years have the highest morbidity and mortality of all pediatric ages, but deaths due to COVID-19 can occur at any age.
  - Maternal vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 for pregnant women and infants less than 6 months of age (who are too young to be vaccinated).

Summary
Benefits and Harms

- 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination is effective in preventing hospitalizations and critical outcomes from COVID-19 in adults.
  - Data from prior vaccine formulations show that vaccine effectiveness has been similar across age groups.
- COVID-19 vaccines have been continuously monitored through robust safety surveillance
  - Safety surveillance identified and characterized the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.
  - No other risks confirmed in the current U.S.-licensed vaccines except those seen with other vaccines (e.g., local and systemic reactions, allergic reactions).
- Pregnant women are at increased risk of severe disease and adverse pregnancy outcomes from COVID-19.
- Maternal vaccination has been shown to protect infants <6 months of age from severe outcomes of COVID-19.

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