

RESPIRATORY VACCINATION ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE, ACCESS, AND REPORTED ATTEMPTS

Respiratory illnesses—including influenza, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and pneumococcal disease—remain important causes of illness and serious health outcomes in the United States. Vaccination can reduce these risks, but uptake of respiratory vaccines remains suboptimal, shaped by uncertainty about personal recommendations, limited understanding of disease burden, and challenges accessing vaccination.

To better understand these factors, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) commissioned a nationally representative survey of U.S. adults. The findings point to a gap between broad support for vaccination and adults' understanding of which vaccines may be appropriate for them—and, ultimately, whether they seek vaccination.

Broad Support for Vaccines

77%

agree vaccines are among the **best** and **most proven** ways to protect against **serious infectious disease**

71%

agree **vaccine benefits strongly outweigh the risks**

89%

agree anyone **who wants access to a vaccine** should be able to get one

But Uncertainty About Personal Recommendations

28%

of adults said **flu vaccination** is **not recommended** for someone like them (17%) or **didn't know** (11%) — despite leading medical societies recommending it

49%

of adults said updated **COVID-19 vaccination** is **not recommended** for someone like them (29%) or **didn't know** (20%) — despite leading medical societies recommending it

Mixed Knowledge of Disease Burden

11%

correctly selected the range containing CDC's estimate of **~710,000 flu-related hospitalizations** in 2024–2025

47%

correctly identified **RSV** as the leading cause of **hospitalization among U.S. infants**, from a multiple-choice list

TRUST, ACCESS, AND VACCINATION BEHAVIOR

Fewer Than Half Attempted to Get Vaccinated

48% of adults reported **trying to obtain at least one of four respiratory vaccines** — influenza, COVID-19, RSV, or pneumococcal — in the prior 12 months



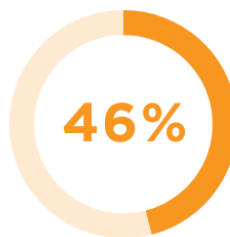
Healthcare Professionals Are the Most Trusted Channel

% REPORTING A “GREAT DEAL OR A LOT” OF TRUST IN:

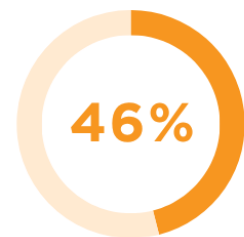
Doctors, pharmacists,
and nurses



CDC



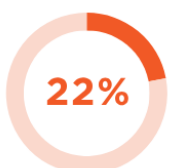
State or local health
departments



Pharmacies and Clinicians’ Offices are Dominant Access Points

Vaccine	Pharmacy	Doctor’s Office/Clinic
Flu	51%	36%
COVID-19	60%	26%
RSV	47%	38%
Pneumococcal	50%	43%

About 1 in 5 Encountered a Problem



Among adults who tried to obtain at least one of the four vaccines, **22%** reported at least one problem. Types of problems reported include: being told the vaccine was **out of stock or unavailable**, being told to **return another day or time**, and being **sent back and forth between a pharmacy and doctor’s office**.