



DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NOTICE NO. 24-01

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
 ALL FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CENTERS
 ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
 ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS
 ALL CENTER USERS

FROM: ERIN MCGEE
 Acting National Director
 Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Guidance for Respiratory Illnesses 2024-2025

1. **Purpose.** To inform Job Corps centers of guidance for managing respiratory illness prevention, immunization, and testing for the 2024-2025 fall and winter season.
2. **Background.** Respiratory illnesses can disrupt daily life, education, and work environments. These illnesses can occur at any time of year, although peak transmission tends to occur during the fall and winter. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) monitors COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and other respiratory illness activity across the country at [Respiratory Virus Activity Levels \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-virus-activity-levels/).

Both COVID-19 and influenza can mutate, causing the emergence of new variants. As new variants emerge and with increased time since prior infection or prior vaccination, immune protection decreases. Immunization is the most effective approach to prevention, mitigation, and limiting transmission of these illnesses.¹

CDC recommends that all people over 6 months receive the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to protect against severe illness, including hospitalization, death, and long COVID. It is safe to receive COVID-19 and influenza vaccines at the same visit. Additionally, the CDC recommends that pregnant people receive the RSV vaccine between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.²

¹ CDC. (2024). [6 Tips to Prepare Your Practice and Your Patients for the Fall and Winter Virus Season.](#)

² CDC. (2024). [Immunization for Respiratory Viruses Prevention.](#)

Additional core prevention measures include practicing good hygiene, improving air quality and circulation, testing, treatment, and taking precautions to prevent spread.³

3. **Action.**

- a. This Program Instruction Notice (PIN) supplements PIN 23-09 Managing Respiratory Infections on Job Corps Centers.
- b. Job Corps centers must take actions to reduce the risk of respiratory illnesses, including:
 - ***Continue to reduce the risk of respiratory illness spread by:***
 - Providing education about respiratory illness and measures to reduce risk for individuals and the community as outlined in [Preventing Respiratory Viruses \(CDC\)](#).
 - Providing masks and education about when masking is appropriate to reduce risk for individuals and the community.
 - Reviewing and following [PI 23-09 Managing Respiratory Viruses on Job Corps Centers](#).
 - ***Support students in obtaining vaccines for respiratory illnesses:***
 - All students should be encouraged to receive:
 - 2024-2025 seasonal influenza vaccine
 - 2024-2025 COVID-19 booster immunizations, [following CDC guidelines](#)
 - All pregnant people should be encouraged to receive the RSV vaccine between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy. COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are recommended at any time during pregnancy.
 - Centers must reduce barriers for students to access vaccines for respiratory illness. Centers may use a variety of approaches including:
 - Centers may order, store, and administer both seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccines on center.
 - Centers may host vaccination clinics in common areas on center and conduct outreach and education.
 - Centers may partner with community resources and transport students off center for vaccination.
 - ***Order testing supplies for respiratory illness management:***
 - Testing is no longer universally recommended for close contact exposures or all people with respiratory symptoms.
 - Clinicians should decide whether influenza and/or COVID-19 testing is warranted based on:
 - The student's risk for severe disease
 - Respiratory illness patterns on center
 - Whether testing will alter treatment management and use of antiviral medications
 - Centers are responsible for ordering and restocking COVID-19 and influenza testing supplies.

³ CDC. (2024). [Preventing Respiratory Viruses](#).

4. **Effective Date.** Immediately.
5. **Expiration Date.** Until superseded.
6. **Inquiries.** Inquiries should be directed to Johnetta Davis at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.