

## Enhancing Adult Immunization Rates

### Neighborhood News – October 2024

Vaccinations are a cornerstone of preventive health care, offering a proven way to prevent serious diseases and reduce health care costs by preventing hospitalizations. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices provides evidence-based recommendations for adult vaccinations based on age and specific medical conditions.

Despite their benefits, our adult vaccination rates for Tdap, Zoster, Pneumonia, and Influenza in Measurement Year 2023 are low. Contributing factors include inaccurate reporting to the State Immunization Registry and Vaccine Hesitancy.

In 2021, the Rhode Island Child and Adult Immunization Registry (RICAIR) was established due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, expanding the existing KIDSNET system to track immunizations for all ages statewide. Accurate reporting of adult immunizations is crucial for effective public health surveillance and improving vaccination rates.

### How You Can Help Enhance Adult Immunization Rates

1. **Accurate Reporting:** Ensure all vaccinations are reported to RICAIR. For guidance, contact [RIDOH.RICAIRONboarding@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.RICAIRONboarding@health.ri.gov).
2. **Educate Patients:** Discuss the importance, safety, and effectiveness of adult immunizations with your patients.
3. **Utilize Every Visit:** Administer vaccines during any office visit. Consider establishing standing orders to increase opportunities for vaccination.
4. **Build Trust:** Foster a trusting relationship between health care providers and patients to alleviate concerns and encourage vaccination.
5. **Adhere to Guidelines:** Follow the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immunization schedule](#) for adults.