Round 1 2025/26
Executive Summary Report

Feb 16, 2026

In the 3rd round of RSV scenario projections (Round 1 2025/26), the US Scenario Modeling Hub considered four intervention scenarios, representing high and moderate coverage of infant interventions (maternal vaccines and long-acting monoclonal antibodies), and optimistic vs. pessimistic waning of senior vaccine protection. A fifth counterfactual scenario with no intervention was modeled for reference.

Key Takeaways

- **The high and moderate immunization coverage scenarios in infants are projected to significantly reduce disease burden. Vaccination is expected to averted a substantial amount of hospitalizations among seniors as well, with optimistic vaccine waning providing greater benefits than pessimistic waning.**
- **Projected RSV activity is likely to remain below levels seen last season with most likely a peak between late December and late February.**

Vaccination Impact on Hospitalizations

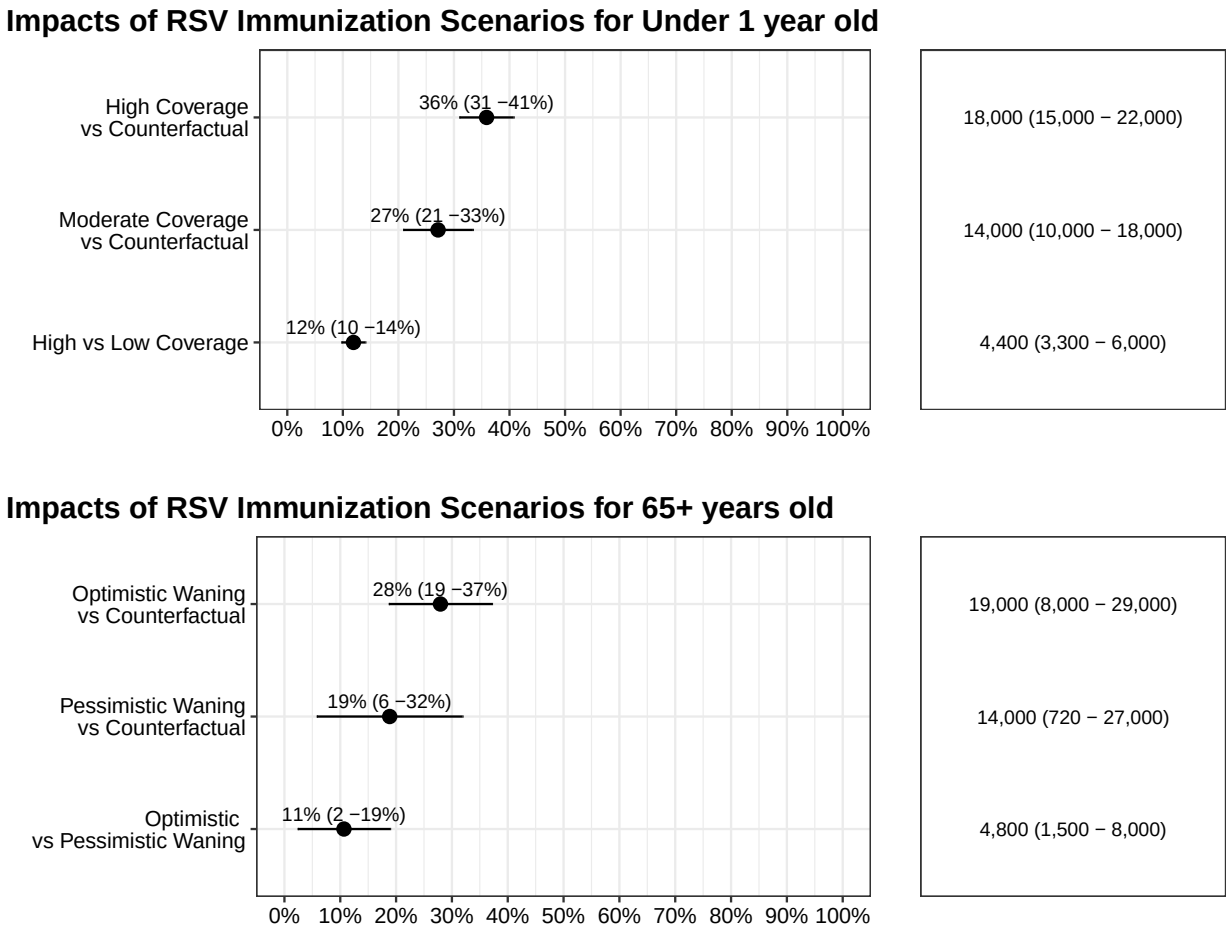

Figure 1. Projected hospitalizations averted by vaccination scenarios in the US, July 27, 2025 to June 06, 2026, compared to a counterfactual scenario without immunization.

- On a national scale, and compared to the counterfactual, we project that 36% (95% confidence Interval [CI]: 31-41%) of seasonal RSV hospitalizations, or 18,000 (95% CI: 15,000–22,000) hospitalizations, will be averted among infants

in the scenario with high infant coverage and optimistic senior waning (scenario A), compared to non-intervention scenario (scenario E). With the same scenario comparison, immunization benefits among seniors amount to 28% (95% CI 19-37%) hospitalizations averted, or 19,000 (95% CI 8,000-29,000) hospitalizations.

- Estimates of intervention benefits are sensitive to assumptions about vaccine waning and immunization coverage. In optimistic scenarios assuming a slow waning of vaccine protection in the second and third year after vaccine receipt, we project that 11% (95% CI 2-19%) and 4,800 (95% CI: 1,500-8,000) additional hospitalizations will be averted among seniors, compared to pessimistic scenarios modeling fast waning. In scenarios assuming high infant immunization coverage, we project 12% (10-14%) additional hospitalizations averted among infants, or 4,400 (95% CI 3,300-6,000) hospitalization, compared to moderate coverage scenarios.

Season Burden and Trajectory

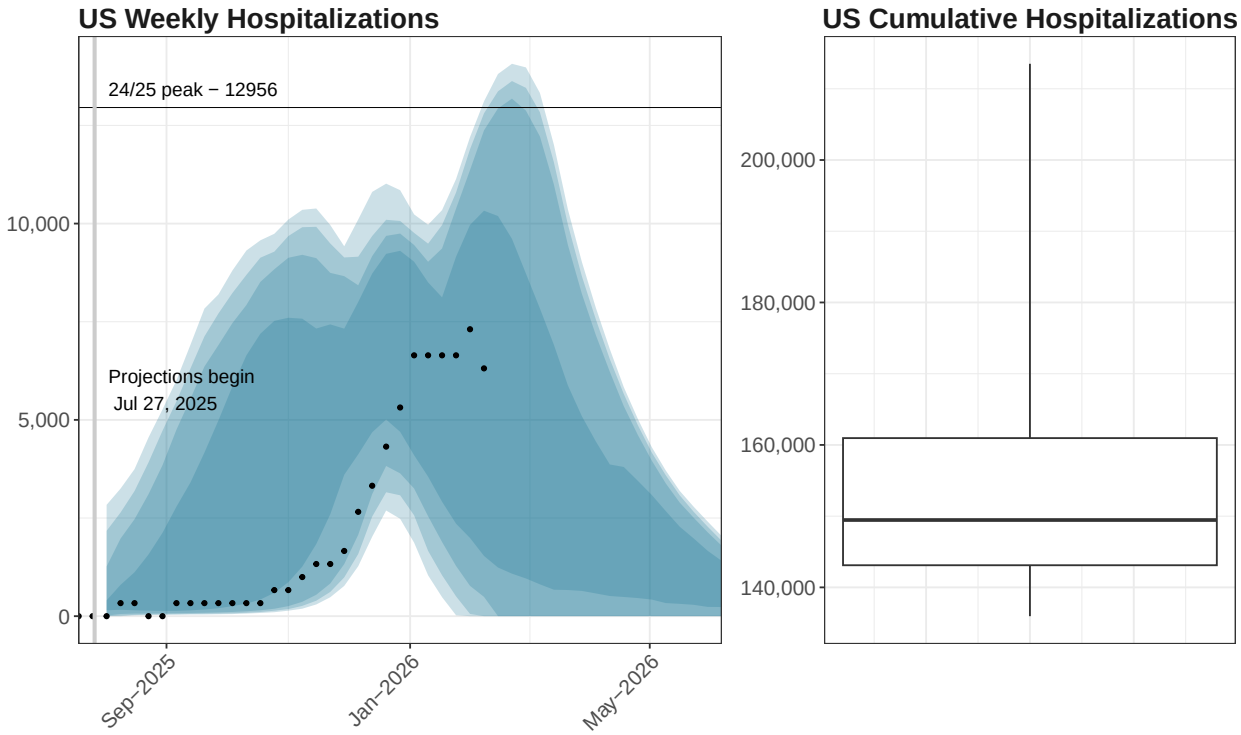

Figure 2. Weekly and cumulative ensemble projections of RSV hospitalizations in the US, high infant coverage and optimistic senior waning scenario, July 27, 2025 to June 06, 2026. From lightest to darkest, shading represents 95%, 90%, 80% and 50% projection intervals (PI).

- **RSV activity is projected to likely remain below levels seen last season**.
- **Hospitalization peak timing is not well defined, though expected to occur between late December to late February**
- In high vaccine coverage for infants and optimistic senior waning scenario, cumulative burden for this season is projected to reach 150,000 (95% PI: 136,000-214,000) hospitalizations.

The *US RSV Scenario Modeling Hub* aims to produce robust projections to provide real-time actionable modeling evidence to support ongoing public health needs and decision-making. For Round 1 2025/26, four teams contributed projections of the trajectory of RSV during Sunday, July 27, 2025 to June 06, 2026. Detailed scenario descriptions and setting assumptions are provided on the SMH GitHub site . See fluscenariomodelinghub.org for more results and details.

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