



Illinois Public Health Association

500 West Monroe, Suite 1E, Springfield, Illinois 62704

Phone: 217-522-5687 FAX: 217-522-5689 E-mail: ipha@ipha.com Web Site: www.ipha.com

Comments to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

June 25 – 27, 2025 Meeting Docket ID: CDC-2025-0024

Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) is pleased to submit written comments for the June 25 - 27, 2025 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting.

For decades, ACIP has provided evidence-based recommendations that guide healthcare providers and public health agencies in ensuring safe and effective immunization practices. The abrupt removal of all sitting members and the appointment of new individuals—some with well-documented skepticism toward vaccines—threaten the integrity of any recommendations made by this advisory body in the future. It is essential that decisions surrounding vaccine guidelines remain rooted in scientific research, clinical expertise, and transparency. The stability and credibility of ACIP are crucial in maintaining public confidence in immunization efforts, particularly in preventing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Now, in an unprecedented and deeply concerning move, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has removed all 17 members of this committee. IPHA strongly opposes this decision. The firing of the ACIP members discounts years of public health precedent and only serves to dismantle one of the most respected, transparent, and science-driven advisory bodies in the world. Secretary Kennedy stated, in the media, that ACIP members have “serious conflicts of interest” and have functioned as a “rubber stamp for industry profit-taking agendas.” These accusations are not just unsubstantiated; they are dangerously misleading and will only result in further eroding of the public’s trust in government and public health.

IPHA is an association committed to public health. Our leaders and members urge policymakers to ensure that ACIP maintains its credibility by upholding rigorous scientific review processes. The health of our communities depends on access to trustworthy immunization guidance, and we must advocate for decisions that prioritize evidence-based practices.

It is imperative that ACIP continues to disseminate credible, scientifically based information to ensure the U.S. immunization system continues to be strong and effective in the fight against serious infectious diseases. The expertise of ACIP members is essential and they play a crucial role in protecting public health. The health of our communities depends on this expertise and guidance.

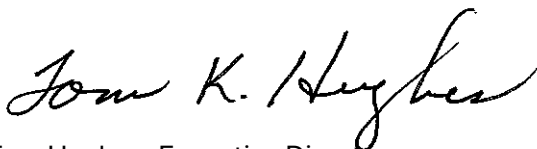
IPHA provides the following recommendations for ACIP to reestablish confidence and ensure the health of our communities:

1. Continue ACIP's strong policies, which ensure transparency and minimize industry influences on vaccine recommendations.
2. Establish strong, transparent recommendations for the fall COVID-19 vaccine, including vaccination for individuals across all age groups.
3. Reinforce and embrace the conflict of interest protocols and reinforce the integrity of ACIP's rigorous ethics and transparency protocols that have been in place for decades.
4. Communicate clearly when CDC guidance differs from FDA indications and explain the rationale in plain language to ensure the public, providers, and policymakers understand the guidance and reasoning.
5. Make evidence-based and sound recommendations on vaccines and subsequently ensure insurers are given direct guidance that vaccines should be fully covered and that cost shall not be a barrier for access for any population.

The health of our communities depends on ACIP to continue its long-standing commitment to evidence, ethics, and public health—and we urge you to continue serving our communities with the transparency and scientific rigor that has been a hallmark of the work done by ACIP over the years.

We are depending on ACIP for its continued dedication to protecting public health and a firm commitment to ensure that all Americans, particularly our most vulnerable populations, have equitable access to life-saving vaccines.

Sincerely,



Tom Hughes, Executive Director
Illinois Public Health Association



Monica Hendrickson, President
Illinois Public Health Association

CMM:File