

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

June 9, 2025

Public Comment for the June 25-27, 2025 CDC ACIP Committee Meeting

To the CDC ACIP committee:

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the recent termination of all 17 existing CDC ACIP committee members, announced on June 9 by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Independent expert scientific and medical input from the ACIP committee is crucial to inform access to safe and effective FDA-approved and authorized vaccines and also to guide insurance coverage and coverage for uninsured children through the Vaccines for Children program. Vaccination rates for many diseases are far too low, and our communities are impacted by outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and COVID. Many of these infections cause serious and potentially lifelong consequences in unvaccinated children and adults. Children should not die because of a lack of access to affordable vaccines. We need strong support for effective vaccination campaigns.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of basic science in his explanation of why he “retired” the ACIP members. He does not even understand what a placebo is, so therefore cannot be allowed to spew unbased claims under the false pretense that many placebo-controlled trials do not exist when they clearly do. Materials in placebos in the vaccine studies are small amounts of substances that may cause mild reactions to allow for a controlled study. It appears he will replace the dismissed members with those that align with these critically incorrect beliefs.

Additionally, the recent restrictions on COVID vaccinations are a serious concern. All of us must have regular access to updated COVID vaccines, which must be made available widely and must be covered by health insurance. The scientific evidence is clear: COVID vaccination within the last year reduces the risk of symptoms, severe disease, disability, and death for people of all ages, including previously healthy people. The new policies impose harmful restrictions on COVID vaccines, which limit vaccine access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. These restrictions also sow uncertainty and doubt about COVID vaccines, while there is no scientific basis for the restrictions. Please take action to reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, at least once a year, for all COVID vaccine formulations.

Vaccine policy changes must be undertaken in a science-based, open, and transparent process that prioritizes public health. The COVID vaccine policy updates were done in a top-down fashion, without appropriate expert advisory committee input. FDA’s VRBPAC committee members were not allowed to discuss the COVID vaccine policy changes at the May 22 meeting. There was no opportunity to provide public comment on the new policies before they were implemented. Influenza vaccine strain selection also occurred in a closed-door meeting without input from the FDA VRBPAC committee and with no

opportunity for public comment. Please ensure that all vaccine policy decisions are made using appropriate open and transparent processes, which are essential to our democracy.

I am a trained professional specializing in infectious diseases and do not know a single person in my profession that agrees with what is occurring with regards to the dismantling of our vaccine guidance. This is not rebuilding trust. This will harm and kill children, unnecessarily. Who will answer for this?