

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

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

To RFK Jr. and Members of the CDC ACIP Committee:

I have no financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

As a blind professional working in a residential educational setting that serves adults of all ages, I am writing to express deep concern about the recent dismissal of the CDC ACIP vaccine advisory committee and the subsequent attempt to restrict access to COVID vaccines. This decision jeopardizes not only the safety of our students but also that of the staff who support them.

While many assume that COVID is no longer a serious threat, this perspective ignores those of us with disabilities who live alone. If I become sick, I am my only caregiver. The added complexity of managing illness—especially a disease with known risks of long-term effects—places an undue burden on people like me. It is both reckless and unethical to remove our access to basic preventative care based on political ideology.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. often speaks about protecting personal freedom. Yet here, his actions undermine that very principle. Freedom must include the right to receive a vaccine—not just the right to refuse one. Restricting access to vaccination strips people of autonomy under the guise of defending it.

Furthermore, dismantling a committee of scientific experts in favor of ideologically-aligned individuals casts serious doubt on the integrity of the process. These decisions are not being made with public safety in mind. They appear politically motivated and self-serving.

I urge the CDC ACIP to:

1. Restore independent scientific advisors to the committee.
2. Reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations for all age groups, at least twice per year.
3. Ensure all vaccine policy decisions follow an open, transparent, and evidence-based process.
4. Recognize that COVID continues to pose serious risk—including long-term complications from repeated infections.

Decisions like this may seem abstract to those in power, but they are deeply personal to people like me. I deserve the same right to protect myself and my community. Please do not make that harder.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public health.

Jedi Moerke