

June 17, 2025

RE: Docket Number [CDC-2025-0024](#) (June 25-27, 2025 ACIP Meeting Notice)

To Whom It May Concern:

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

First, I want to express my grave concerns about the recent termination of all seventeen members of the CDC ACIP committee announced on June 9 by Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. These former members have an important role as independent expert scientists or clinicians on the ACIP committee with a crucial role in providing their understanding of the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines while also guiding insurance coverage and coverage for uninsured children through the Vaccines for Children program.

Currently, vaccination rates for many infectious diseases are very low, and many communities across the United States are directly affected by outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and COVID-19. Many of these infections can cause serious and potentially lifelong consequences on their health. Children in 2025 should not die or become disabled from infectious diseases because of a lack of access to affordable and effective vaccines.

In fact, access to vaccination for a broad range of infectious diseases affords people of all ages in my community the ability to protect our collective health and well-being. Over my lifetime, access to vaccines has made it safer to share life's celebrations with friends and loved ones. Vaccination for COVID-19, which has cumulative, long-term effects on the health of those the virus infects, remains particularly important.

And yet, Secretary Kennedy, FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary, and Director of the FDA's CBER Dr. Vinay Prasad have recently established policies that limit access to COVID vaccinations. Creating such barriers harms the public's health. Everyone must have regular access to updated COVID vaccines that are widely available and fully covered by health insurance. The new policies create barriers to access to COVID vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65.

These restrictions on access also create immense and unnecessary confusion among the public on the usefulness of COVID vaccines. The scientific evidence on their efficacy is irrefutable, so it wastes precious resources and time to conduct additional efficacy studies that will only serve to

sow doubt in vaccines. Receiving a COVID vaccine within the last year reduces the risk of symptoms, severe disease, disability, and death for people of all ages, including previously healthy people. I ask you to take action, follow the evidence, and reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, twice a year, for all COVID vaccine formulations.

Lastly, any changes to vaccine-related policies requires a science and evidence-based approach entailing an open, and transparent process. Similarly at the FDA, the VRBPAC committee members were faced with undue influence by the leadership of the FDA including Dr. Prasad. He made a decision for the VRBPAC committee before they had a chance to consider and share vaccine recommendations. This also happened with the Influenza vaccine strain selection, which occurred in a closed-door meeting without recommendations from the FDA VRBPAC committee members, and no opportunity for public consideration or comment. I beseech this committee to ensure that all vaccine policy decisions are considered, evaluated, and concluded using open and transparent processes, all of which are hallmarks of democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.