

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

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

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

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Today, I am writing to express grave concerns about the recent termination of all 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee announced on June 9 by 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 US 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. COVID-19 vaccines must be available to everyone and not limited to only some people.

I am a high-risk individual with multiple mood disorders as a result of my time working as a frontline healthcare worker from 2020 to 2022. It is important for me to have access to all vaccines and their boosters, and for my family members, healthy or otherwise, to have access. Vaccine access has the potential to protect us all, as we have established evidence that COVID-19 vaccines decrease the risk of Long COVID in healthy and high-risk individuals. This reasoning expands to all the citizens of the United States.

RFK Jr., Marty Makary, and Vinay Prasad have recently established policies that limit COVID-19 vaccination access. Creating such barriers is harmful to the public's health. Everyone must have regular access to updated COVID-19 vaccines with full coverage by health insurance. The scientific evidence is irrefutable, and it wastes precious resources and time to conduct additional efficacy studies, which only serve to sow doubt about vaccines. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine 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 create barriers to access COVID-19 vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. These restrictions also create immense confusion among the public on the usefulness of COVID-19 vaccines. We 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.

Any changes to vaccine-related policies require a science and evidence-based approach with an open and transparent process. At the FDA, the VRBPAC committee members were faced with undue influence by FDA leadership, including Vinay Prasad. He decided for the VRBPAC committee before they could 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.