

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.

I would like to express my deep concern over the recent termination of all 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee announced by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The former members of the ACIP committee were independent scientists and clinicians who played a vital role in providing understanding of the safety and effectiveness of FDA-approved vaccines and guiding insured and uninsured coverage for children through the Vaccines for Children program. Across America, vaccination rates are low for many infectious diseases, causing outbreaks of preventable diseases like measles, pertussis, and COVID. These are all diseases which have safe, effective vaccines that have been proven to work in preventing and stopping their spread. Many of these infectious diseases can cause lifelong health consequences. Already soaring numbers of children have been diagnosed with Long COVID, which can cause fatigue, brain fog, increased risk of heart attack, and a myriad other health issues. It is ridiculous that in 2025 there are children in America that are dying or becoming disabled due to preventable diseases, simply because they do not have access to safe, effective vaccines.

Everyone should have regular access to updated COVID vaccines, yet recently RFK Jr., Marty Maker, and Vinny Prasad established policies that limit access to COVID vaccines. These policies will limit access to vaccines for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. This will actively harm the health and well being of the American public. There is numerous irrefutable scientific evidence that receiving updated COVID vaccines reduces the risk of symptoms, severe disease, disability, and death for people of all ages, including people who were otherwise healthy prior to infection. These restrictions will only serve to create confusion around the usefulness and safety of COVID vaccines, and result in an unhealthy America. The American public demands you to take action to reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, twice a year, for all COVID vaccine formulations.

Any processes to change vaccine related policies must be open and transparent, and rely on scientific evidence. Recently at the FDA, the VRBPAC committee members faced undue influence by FDA leadership, including Vinay Prasad, causing a decision to be made for the VRBPAC committee before they even had a chance to discuss vaccine recommendations amongst themselves. In a similar situation, a closed door meeting without public comment or recommendations from the FDA VRBPAC committee members was held to determine the Influenza vaccine strain selection. The American public has the right to know what decisions are being made in regards to the public health of America, and to contribute their own opinions on those decisions. I urge this committee to uphold democratic values and ensure that all vaccine policy decisions are considered, evaluated, and concluded using open and transparent processes.

Thank you for your consideration.