

Date: June 20, 2025

Filed to www.regulations.gov under CDC 2025-0024.

To Whom It May Concern:

Summary: I write to express my concerns regarding proposed votes on access to the vaccines for discussion at the June 2025 ACIP meeting as listed in docket CDC 2025-0024. Specifically, I write to advocate for:

- continued scheduled access to all vaccines listed in this docket;
- continued research on the new vaccines under development;
- increased research on emerging science showing correlations between routine vaccinations and reduction in Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia*

I have no conflicts of interest on this matter. I am a person with a disability who relies on both traditional as well as newer mRNA-based vaccines to maintain my health, and to prevent or to mitigate impacts of infections from influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and other infectious diseases. I am an Executive Fellow in Applied Technology Policy at the University of California, Berkeley Information School and Goldman School of Public Policy; and the former Assistant Director for Accessibility at the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House. I submit these comments in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization.

Operation Warp Speed was a successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic, saving hundreds of thousands of lives in the US according to consensus analysis of scientists. It is important to maintain scheduled access to COVID-19 vaccines in order for Americans to maintain affordable access to vaccines.

Development of the mRNA vaccine was accomplished because of a scientific platform that had been in development for years. The identification of the genetic sequencing of COVID-19 in January 2020 was key to rapidly taking advantage of that existing mRNA platform. mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines received widespread testing, including through large, international, multi-site, individually randomized controlled clinical trials to confirm safety and efficacy.

Periodic updates to the COVID-19 vaccine to increase the efficacy of mRNA protection from new COVID variants has been an essential part of that continued public health strategy. It is therefore also important to maintain research and development that allows regular updating of the vaccine according to prevalence of emerging variants as assessed by experts.

Similarly, the flu vaccine has saved millions of lives over the years, and annual updates to the influenza vaccine is likewise important. CDC meetings to provide expert guidance into annual updates of the strains included in the annual flu vaccine have historically been important and should continue. During occasional years where the flu vaccine has not been fine-tuned to

emerging strains, morbidity and mortality from influenza increases. Recent cancelation of those meetings puts increases public health risks for millions of people.

Reducing access to these vaccines and to others listed for discussion in the upcoming ACIP meeting would make America less healthy, rather than healthier, as is the stated goal of this Administration.

Additionally, scientific evidence has emerged in recent years to show that routine vaccinations for multiple diseases are associated with a reduced risk of developing Alzheimer's disease*. It would be tragic if ACIP took steps that would reduce American's access to vaccines. This would lead to increased morbidity and mortality from preventable diseases, and interrupt secondary benefits such as reductions in other diseases including Alzheimer's. If the Administration's goal is to increase the overall health of the American public it would be illogical to reduce equitable public access to these vaccines.

Respectfully,

- Judy Brewer

* <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/routine-vaccinations-linked-with-lower-alzheimers-risk>