

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

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

As both a physician and a mother, I am writing to express deep concern over the June 9 decision by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to remove all 17 members of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These members are independent experts whose guidance ensures the safe and effective use of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines. Their work not only shapes public health recommendations but also supports critical programs like Vaccines for Children, which help ensure equitable access to immunizations across the country.

I have seen how vaccines have helped protect my own children—keeping them healthy and shielding them from diseases that once caused significant suffering and loss. In my medical practice, I've cared for patients who were spared severe illness because they had access to vaccines, and I've witnessed the preventable harm that can result when vaccination coverage breaks down. From both personal and professional perspectives, I know vaccines are essential—not only for individual health but also for the well-being of entire communities.

Unfortunately, vaccination rates remain too low in many areas of the United States, and we are already seeing the impact. Diseases like measles, pertussis, and COVID-19—once well controlled—are reemerging and putting vulnerable children and families at risk. In 2025, it is unconscionable that preventable diseases are once again causing serious harm due to misinformation, access barriers, and politicized decision-making.

Recent policies endorsed by RFK Jr., Dr. Marty Makary, and Dr. Vinay Prasad have imposed troubling new limits on who can receive COVID-19 vaccines, including children, pregnant people, and healthy adults under 65. These restrictions ignore clear scientific evidence showing that COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of illness, hospitalization, long-term complications, and death. Demanding further efficacy studies at this stage is not a medically driven concern—it is a political maneuver that undermines trust and delays essential protection.

I strongly urge you to take immediate, science-based action by:

- Reinstating the ACIP members or appointing replacements who are equally independent and qualified;
- Restoring universal recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination, including twice-yearly eligibility for all age groups;
- Ensuring continued insurance coverage and widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines;
- Maintaining transparency and scientific rigor in all vaccine-related processes through bodies like the FDA and VRBPAC.

The public depends on our health institutions to rise above politics and act in the best interest of our collective health. Now more than ever, it is essential that vaccine policy be guided by science, transparency, and the expertise of those best equipped to protect our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.