



Docket No. CDC-2025-0024

Dear Members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):

On behalf of the American Society for Meningitis Prevention, the Kimberly Coffey Foundation, and the Emily Stillman Foundation, we are writing to **strongly urge the ACIP to reprioritize their assessment of meningococcal vaccine recommendations** to ensure more adolescents and young adults are protected from this devastating and unpredictable disease.

We are deeply disheartened to see that meningococcal vaccines are entirely absent from the [agenda](#) for the upcoming June 2025 meeting. This omission is especially alarming given the critical momentum gained in 2024, when the ACIP initiated a much-needed, holistic review of the meningococcal vaccine platform. Current meningitis vaccination recommendations have led to significant consequences and preventable outcomes:

- Just this week, a [14-year-old](#) child just lost his life to meningococcal meningitis.
- In 2024, the U.S. reported [503 confirmed and probable meningococcal cases](#) – the highest number since 2013.
- 2025 has already seen cases in [Alabama](#), [Ohio](#), and [Virginia](#)—including the tragic loss of a University of Virginia student to Meningitis B.
- MenB vaccine coverage remains dangerously low, with only [13% of eligible adolescents](#) completing the series—despite MenB being responsible for 100% of all U.S. college outbreaks since 2011.
- Only [6 in 10 teens](#) have received both doses of the recommended MenACWY vaccine.
- [45% of healthcare providers](#) report that the current recommendations are overly complex compared to other vaccines.

These data along with two new pentavalent meningococcal vaccine products underscore the urgent need for more clear, simple and broad recommendations. Furthermore, the sudden halt of this process coupled with Secretary Kennedy's [removal](#) of all 17 ACIP members and the appointment of eight new members lacking subject-matter expertise on this topic will yield immeasurable consequences for those least able to protect themselves – our children and adolescents. These actions have also created significant uncertainty about how future vaccine recommendations will be made and threatens to further diminish public trust in immunization.

We urge the newly appointed ACIP members to demonstrate their commitment to a transparent, evidence-based, and balanced process—one that is informed by science and the lived experiences of those affected by vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as by those implementing vaccination policies across the country. We also request assurance that the research and insights gathered over the last decade to inform this issue have been preserved and will continue to be considered in future discussions. Meningococcal meningitis is an urgent and growing threat that demands immediate attention.

This fight is deeply personal for us.

In 2012, Patti Wukovits lost her 17-year-old daughter, Kimberly, to Meningitis B just days before her high school graduation. The vaccine that could have saved her life wasn't yet available in the U.S. Patti went on to establish the Kimberly Coffey Foundation to raise awareness and prevent similar tragedies.

In 2013, Alicia Stillman's daughter, Emily, a college sophomore, died suddenly from Meningitis B—despite being fully vaccinated with MenACWY. At the time, the MenB vaccine had still not been introduced in the U.S. Alicia founded the Emily Stillman Foundation to advocate for meningitis education and prevention.

Together, Patti and Alicia co-founded the American Society for Meningitis Prevention (ASMP)—committed to advancing policy that ensures no more families suffer the preventable loss of a child to meningococcal disease.

We urge you to continue the important work you began in 2024. Do not let it be lost in the shuffle of leadership change and political pressure. Streamlined, universal recommendations are not only achievable but they are essential to protect our children and teenagers.

We waited and dreamed for a MenB vaccine—now we have it, and only 3 in 10 eligible adolescents have [received](#) it. We can and must do better—for Kimberly, for Emily, and for the countless others still at risk.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Patti Wukovits, BSN, RN, AMB-BC and Alicia Stillman, MBA, MPH

Co-Executive Directors, American Society for Meningitis Prevention