



THE PARTNERSHIP

FOR INCLUSIVE DISASTER STRATEGIES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice

1600 Clifton Road NE

Atlanta, GA 30329

RE: Dockey#: CDC-2025-0024; ACIP - Committee Meeting (June 25-26, 2025)

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (The Partnership) is the only U.S. disability-led nonprofit organization that focuses on the rights, needs, and inclusion of people with disabilities and people with access and functional needs throughout all planning, programs, services, and procedures before, during, and after disasters and emergencies. We achieve our mission through disability-led disaster response and community resilience; community engagement, organizing, and leadership development; advocacy and systems change; training, technical assistance, and research; and unwavering support for local disability organizations.

The Partnership is a convener for local disability organizations, advocates, emergency managers, public health officials, federal, state/territorial and local government agencies, first responders, and allies across the country to address the urgent needs and systemic gaps and barriers people with disabilities face before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) - Committee Meeting.



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We write today with grave concern about the current direction of national COVID-19 vaccine policy and the increasing misinformation and anti-vaccine sentiment shaping rhetoric, guidances and policies.

COVID-19 remains a public health crisis for millions of people, especially people at highest risk of severe illness or death, disabled people, older adults, multiply-marginalized communities, and people with chronic health conditions. As a national disability-led response organization and hosting a daily COVID-19 and concurrent disasters call for over five years, we have heard from thousands of individuals who depend on uninterrupted, accessible, and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. The CDC's policies must reflect this ongoing need.

We urge ACIP and the CDC to reaffirm their commitment to evidence-based public health policy. Vaccine recommendations must be grounded in science, not politics. Disinformation and denialism have no place in public health decision-making, especially when lives are at stake.

Free access to COVID-19 vaccines must be guaranteed through all public and private payers, including Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, VA health systems, and services for people without insurance or underinsured. No one should be turned away or charged for a vaccine that protects them, their family and community. Continued COVID vaccination is not a luxury, it is a matter of survival and public safety.

We need a renewed investment in disability- and community-led distribution, including mobile clinics, in-home vaccinations, sensory-friendly locations, and targeted outreach through trusted community-based organizations. Materials must be available in multiple languages, plain language, ASL, Braille, large print, and other alternative formats. We also urge the CDC to collect and publish disaggregated data on vaccine access and uptake among disabled communities. Without this, we cannot identify or address the gaps that continue to leave disabled people behind in a public health crisis.

The Partnership firmly believes equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines is a civil rights issue. Health equity, disability rights, and emergency preparedness are deeply connected. No one should be asked to navigate a



fragmented, inaccessible, or expensive vaccine landscape during a public health crisis that continues to disproportionately impact our communities.

We call on ACIP and CDC to strengthen their commitments to accessible, evidence-based, and rights-affirming public health practices. The Partnership continues to be ready to support these efforts and ensure disabled people are not left behind in this ongoing crisis.