

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

Public Comment for the June 25-27, 2025, CDC ACIP Committee Meeting

To: Secretary Kennedy and the Members of the CDC ACIP committee

First, I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Secretary Kennedy's decision to terminate all prior 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee, and to hand-pick unqualified and antagonistic replacements, were bad decisions on so many levels.

The former members were carefully vetted, and all had relevant experience in epidemiology and vaccine research and efficacy. More importantly, all of them believed in good science. They had an important role as independent expert scientists or clinicians on the ACIP committee with a crucial role in providing their understanding of the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines while also guiding insurance coverage and coverage for uninsured children through the Vaccines for Children program.

The primary reason we have been able to keep diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, and polio at bay in this country is because of widespread adoption vaccines. Currently, vaccination rates for many infectious diseases are very low, and many communities across the US are directly affected by outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and COVID. Many of these infections can cause serious and potentially lifelong consequences on their health. Children in 2025 should not die or become disabled from infectious diseases because of a lack of access to affordable and effective vaccines.

Secretary Kennedy, Dr. Makary, and Dr. Prasad have recently established policies that limit access to COVID vaccinations. Their policies are harmful to public health, which requires widespread public participation. Importantly, their decisions willfully ignore valid and relevant scientific data, and choose to follow cherry-picked studies that are not based on good science. Everyone must have regular access to updated COVID vaccines and widely available with full coverage by health insurance. The scientific evidence is irrefutable and it is a waste of precious resources and time to conduct additional efficacy studies, which only serve to sow doubt in vaccines.

The science and clinical data have shown that receiving a COVID vaccine within the last year reduces the risk of symptoms, severe disease, disability, and death for people of all ages, including previously healthy people. The new policies you are mandating create barriers to access to COVID vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. This will lead to more people in those categories being harmed because you have decided to deprive them of the most important tool they have remaining to combat infection.

I, and millions of other people like me, implore you to take action, follow the valid science, and reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, twice a year, for all COVID vaccine formulations.

Any changes to vaccine-related policies requires a science and evidence-based approach entailing an open, and transparent process. The FDA and the VRBPAC committee members were faced with undue influence by the leadership of the FDA including Dr. Prasad. He made a decision for the VRBPAC committee before they had a chance to consider and share vaccine recommendations. This also happened with the Influenza vaccine strain selection, which occurred in a closed-door meeting without recommendations from the FDA VRBPAC committee members, and no opportunity for public consideration or comment.

Your approach is going to harm millions of people. Your decision to hijack the CDC ACIP committee and to hand-pick vaccine skeptics and unqualified people to serve there is anti-democratic, and hypocritical. All vaccine policy decisions must be considered, evaluated, and concluded using open and transparent processes, all of which are hallmarks of democracy.

Stop playing partisan politics and using bad science. The work of the ACIP is too important to allow that.