

Joint Letter on US Childhood Immunization Schedule

In response to the recent policy change on the US childhood immunization schedule, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) led a joint letter to the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Assistant Secretary for Health. Joined by more than 70 scientific and medical organizations, the effort reaffirms the organizations' commitment to a transparent, evidence-based immunization policy process that protects the health of US children.

January 7, 2026

The Honorable Jim O'Neill
Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services / Acting CDC Director
Office of the Deputy Secretary
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201 USA

The Honorable Brian Christine, MD
Assistant Secretary for Health
US Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Deputy Secretary O'Neill and Admiral Christine,

We, the undersigned, appreciate the responsibility of federal health leadership in navigating complex and evolving public health challenges, and we write to share our perspective on recent decisions related to childhood immunization policy.

Comparisons between the US childhood immunization schedule and those of other countries, including Denmark, risk overlooking fundamental differences in population size, diversity, healthcare access, and infectious disease burden. These differences matter. US immunization policy must be guided by a transparent, evidence-based process and grounded in US epidemiology and real-world risk.

In the midst of a potentially severe respiratory season, it would be ill-advised to make changes that are not supported by clear evidence. Last influenza (flu) season, 289 US children died from influenza—the highest number in more than a decade. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remains the leading cause of hospitalization among US infants.

Based on the best available scientific, we strongly urge continued recommendation of annual influenza vaccination for everyone age 6 months and older, as well as protection against RSV for all infants whose mothers did not receive an RSV vaccine during pregnancy.

Adopting an immunization schedule designed for another country—without accounting for the distinct epidemiology and risk profile of the United States—could place US children at increased risk for serious, preventable diseases.

We call on federal public health leaders to reaffirm their commitment to a transparent, evidence-based immunization policy process and to ensure that US childhood vaccination recommendations remain grounded in US data, expert consensus, and rigorous scientific review.

Reducing the number of recommended vaccines increases, rather than decreases, the risk of disease and death among children. Protecting children from preventable infectious diseases must remain the central priority.

We appreciate your consideration and our shared responsibility to protect children's health through transparent, evidence-based decision-making.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research

American Academy of Pediatrics, Alaska Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American Families for Vaccines

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Medical Association

American Medical Group Association (AMGA)

American Pharmacists Association

American Society for Meningitis Prevention

American Society for Microbiology

Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition (Immunize Arkansas)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC)

Boost Oregon

California Immunization Coalition

Dane County Immunization Coalition

Delaware Academy of Medicine and Public Health

Emily Stillman Foundation

Emily's Dash Foundation

EverThrive Illinois

Families Fighting Flu
Gerontological Society of America
Guardians of Youth
Hartford County Medical Association
Helping Hands Foundation
Hepatitis B Foundation
Idaho Immunization Coalition
Illinois Public Health Association
Immunization Coalition of Delaware
Immunize Colorado
Immunize Kansas Coalition
Immunize Oregon
Immunize Wisconsin
Indiana Immunization Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Johnson County Public Health
Kimberly Coffey Foundation
Louisiana Families for Vaccines
Massachusetts Families for Vaccines
Meningitis Research Foundation and Confederation of Meningitis Organisations
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Families for Vaccines
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Kidney Foundation
National Minority Quality Forum
Nebraska Immunization Task Force.
New Mexico Immunization Coalition

NMAC

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Northern Utah Immunization Coalition

Nurses Who Vaccinate

Okanogan County Public Health District

Oklahoma Alliance for Healthy Families

Ryan Martin Foundation

Snohomish County Health Department

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Tennessee Families for Vaccines

The Arizona Partnership for Immunization

The Immunization Partnership

The JAMIE Group

The Joshua Chamberlain Project

The PAMAH Foundation

The Task Force for Global Health

Vaccinate Your Family

Voices for Vaccines

Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials

Washington State Public Health Association

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The following organizations signed onto the letter after January 7:

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Physician Associates

American Psychological Association Services

Arizona Families for Vaccines

Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPALs)

Children's Health Committee, Physicians for Human Rights Student Advisory Board

Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination

Doctors for America

Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT)

Health Watch USA

Immunization Alliance of Michigan

Immunization Coalition of Los Angeles County

ImmunizeVA

Institute for Public Health Innovation

Franklin County Health Department (Indiana)

Maryland Academy of Family Physicians

National Hispanic Health Foundation

New Hampshire Families for Vaccines

New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians

Oregon Families for Vaccines

Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease

Pulse Check Wisconsin

The Dylan McNeil Foundation

Tigerlily Foundation

Unity Consortium

Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia