

Massachusetts Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2026

CONTACT: Cathleen Haggerty, MCAAP
(781.895.9852; chaggerty@mcaap.org)

Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Statement in Response to President Trump's Executive Order on Vaccines

Boston, MA -- August 11, 2026 -- The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) expressed strong opposition to President Donald Trump's Executive Order, "Delivering Gold Standard Childhood Vaccine Recommendations for Americans." The order directs the restructuring of federal immunization guidelines by reducing the number of recommended childhood vaccines and the schedule by which the vaccines are given.

The Executive Order threatens to make vaccination of Massachusetts children more confusing and more difficult by making vaccine recommendations that are inconsistent with decades of scientific evidence demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of childhood immunization. This is especially reckless when vaccination rates are falling, and the United States is experiencing its worst measles outbreak in more than 30 years. MCAAP believes that any changes to the childhood immunization schedule must be based on a thorough review of scientific evidence and developed through a transparent, rigorous process involving appropriately qualified and properly vetted experts.

"We should be removing barriers to vaccination and strengthening the protections that vaccination offers in preventing outbreaks," said David Lyczkowski, MD, MS, FAAP, president, MCAAP. "Our responsibility is to protect children from preventable illness using the strongest available scientific evidence. When public policy makes it more difficult for children to receive timely immunizations, the potential consequences extend beyond individual families to schools, communities, and to children who are especially vulnerable to infectious disease because they are unable to be vaccinated."

In a statement issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), AAP President Andrew D. Racine, MD, PhD, FAAP, said the order is not based on "gold-standard science" and stated that there is no new evidence justifying significant changes to childhood immunization guidance. AAP further emphasized that its vaccine recommendations are tailored to children in the United States and are based on decades of research and systematic tracking of real-world experience. The MCAAP continues to recommend that Massachusetts children be immunized according to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger, United States 2026.

The MCAAP remains committed to ensuring that decisions affecting Massachusetts children are guided by sound science, qualified medical expertise, and an appropriate review process. "The vaccine schedule recommended by the AAP was carefully designed to deliver vaccines at just the right time for a child's body to develop immunity," said Dr. Lyczkowski. "This was based on thousands of high-quality studies carefully vetted by scientists in a rigorous and transparent review process. Today we are seeing politicians talking about arbitrary changes to the vaccine schedule that are not science-based and will

leave kids vulnerable to deadly diseases like measles and hepatitis. The pediatricians of the MCAAP will continue to fight this kind of dangerous disinformation through education and, when necessary, in the courts.”

The MCAAP is a member organization of over 1,600 pediatricians committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health for all infants, children, adolescents, and their families, and to supporting the medical professionals who care for them.

##