

ACIP Recap from the AAP President

June 26, 2025

Dear colleagues:

Today concluded the two-day meeting of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Unfortunately, rather than present a comprehensive review and discussion of the latest vaccine recommendations by experts within and outside of the federal government, this new ACIP promoted misinformation about vaccines and took a dangerous step toward disrupting the pediatric immunization schedule.

That's why AAP decided <u>not to participate</u> in the meeting in our usual liaison role. As I said in the <u>video</u>, we won't lend our name – or our expertise – to a system that is being politicized at the expense of children's health.

During the meeting itself, we engaged in real-time fact checking, correcting the record through timely media interviews with our infectious disease experts, new fact check resources and social media graphics. Pediatricians also shared individual messages on social media amplifying our efforts. Several pediatricians even shared compelling stories during the public comment period of the meeting where they discussed patients they have treated with vaccine preventable diseases and stressed the importance of lifesaving immunizations.

For those of you who sent written comments or were chosen to speak during the meeting, on behalf of grateful pediatricians and families, thank you for speaking up for what we know is right.

Here is a snapshot of some of the actions by AAP this week:

Using our platform to promote vaccines and stand up for science

- <u>Announced</u> our decision not to participate in the ACIP meeting and redouble our commitment to supporting science and our pediatric immunization schedule
- Submitted <u>comments</u> to ACIP raising concerns about the changes at the committee and urging reinstatement of the former voting members
- Spoke up in support of vaccines with other leading medical organizations representing family physicians, internists and obstetricians/gynecologists with this <u>national op-ed</u>
- Covered the meeting in detail in AAP News
- Been featured in media stories: this <u>CNN article</u> linking to our "Fact Checked" on hepatitis B; these <u>New York Times</u> and <u>AP</u> stories quote Committee on Infectious Diseases Chairperson Sean O'Leary, MD, FAAP; and our decision not to participate in the meeting was even featured on <u>ABC7 Eyewitness News!</u>
- Developed in real time and shared a <u>fact check on Hepatitis B</u> after misinformation about the Hep B vaccine was elevated during ACIP including <u>a social graphic</u>
- Set the stage for what to expect from ACIP this year vs. how the committee has operated in the past
- Collaborated with pediatricians to make their <u>voices</u> <u>heard</u> on social media
- Promoted an eloquent <u>open letter</u> to parents authored by David Higgins, MD, FAAP and <u>shared</u> it on social media

Not stepping back, stepping up

The ACIP that met this week is not the ACIP we know. Members have been reaching out, wondering what's next for ACIP, for AAP, for childhood immunizations. While there's a lot of uncertainty over the future of our nation's vaccine infrastructure, one thing I can say for sure: AAP will continue to produce our own <u>pediatric immunization</u> schedule, grounded in science and trusted by <u>families</u>, as we have done since the earliest days of the AAP.

And other medical organizations agree. We're <u>partnering</u> with leading health and medical groups and will be convening later this summer to make sure that clinicians have evidence-backed guidance on key immunizations for all ages as we approach the fall respiratory virus season. This includes payers, to ensure AAP-recommended vaccines remain affordable and accessible to all families.

As we continue to do this work as a national organization, it's not lost on me that all of you are doing meaningful, urgent, important work every single day. The trust families have in their pediatricians—in all of you—continues even in, especially in, this moment when so much is at stake for children's health.

Every day that pediatricians show up is a better day for kids. Thank you for showing up. I will keep doing the same.

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP President