

## Letter from the AAP President: vaccine updates, AAP actions

December 10, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to [downgrade](#) its longstanding recommendation to vaccinate all newborns against hepatitis B at birth. AAP strongly opposes this decision, which was not based on any new data or evidence. Instead, AAP continues to [recommend](#) routine hepatitis B immunization for all newborns.

Since ACIP recommended a universal birth dose of the hepatitis B vaccine in 1991, annual hepatitis B infections among infants and children [have dropped](#) 99%, from 16,000 to less than 20. The committee's suggestion of serology testing to guide decisions regarding vaccination is not supported by the scientific evidence, and the AAP [does not recommend](#) it. For more on the Academy's hepatitis B recommendations, see AAP's [policy statement](#), this [RedBook chapter](#) and the Academy's childhood [immunization schedule](#).

Rather than offer clarity for families, the actions of this ACIP meeting elevated anti-vaccine perspectives that sow fear and distrust in immunizations.

Make no mistake, these changes to childhood vaccine recommendations may seem small, but their impact is not. These actions cause chaos and confusion for families and restrict access to vaccines, which harms children.

That's why, every time a change is made that erodes families' confidence in immunizations, AAP speaks out. We issued a [press release](#) that was [widely quoted](#) in news media. We invited nearly 70 national organizations to [join us](#) in a statement urging CDC leaders to reject ACIP's new recommendation.

We issued new "[Fact Checked](#)" resources to pre-bunk and debunk new falsehoods about immunizations, and updated HealthyChildren.org articles in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We broke records on social media, reaching over 15 million people and gaining 14,000 followers in just two days with content like [this myth-busting carousel](#) and [this hep B immunization post](#). We updated our vaccine [toolkit](#) with new messages, graphics, and sample social media copy. And that was just last week!

AAP is also continuing to hold the federal government accountable. There is a hearing next week as part of AAP's [lawsuit](#) against the Department of Health and Human Services, which among other actions calls for ACIP to be reconstituted in compliance with the law and with ACIP's charter. The urgency of our case is clear.

Even though parents can no longer trust the advice coming out of ACIP, they can trust their child's pediatrician. I encourage you to tune into the latest episode of the [Pediatrics On Call podcast](#) (also in [video format](#)) to hear from Dr. Sean O'Leary about having these conversations with families. Here are additional ways you can sharpen your skills as an advocate and communicator to join our efforts and speak up in support of childhood immunizations:

- **Register for AAP's advocacy conference:** Learn the skills you need to help advance strong child health policies in Washington. Visit [aap.org/adcon](#) to register for the 2026 AAP Advocacy Conference taking place April 12-14 in Arlington, Va. Early bird discount ends Jan. 30.

- **Join our monthly virtual vaccine communications workshops:** learn how to frame vaccine messages, hear about the latest social media trends, and hear from pediatricians communicating about vaccines online. Email [dmendez@aap.org](mailto:dmendez@aap.org) to be notified of the January workshop.
- **Write to your members of Congress** to urge them to restore our vaccine infrastructure and protect children's health. Visit [federaladvocacy.aap.org](https://federaladvocacy.aap.org) (AAP login required) and go to "Tell Congress to Protect Access to Vaccines for Children and Families."

When we face a challenge, pediatricians don't back down, we show up. Let's keep showing up together in the days ahead. When you see an AAP post that resonates with you on social media, please share it. As you talk to friends and colleagues, encourage them to [become members](#) of AAP to be part of our community and to join us in these efforts. We can be braver and bolder when we show up together.

Thank you for all you do,

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP

President

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