



Vaccine Coverage Questions Emerge After Meeting with HHS Secretary



*Hubert H. Humphrey Building, located at the foot of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
Photo Source: Library of Congress*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, November 20, 2025, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. met with a group of governors to discuss federal vaccine policies. During the meeting, Secretary Kennedy stated that even if certain vaccines are removed from the federal recommended vaccine schedule, those vaccines could still remain eligible for insurance coverage. He assured the governors that his goal is not to limit access to vaccines, but to ensure that they are thoroughly evaluated so that risks and benefits are well understood. Kennedy added that individuals would continue to have the option to receive any vaccine they choose through Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children Program.

However, Secretary Kennedy did not address that under the Affordable Care Act, private insurers are required to completely cover all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. This has raised questions about whether vaccines removed from the ACIP-recommended list would continue to be covered by private insurance plans.

The country's biggest health insurance association has mentioned that its member plans will cover all vaccines recommended as of September 1, 2025, with no cost sharing for patients through the end of 2026. At this time, it is unclear what coverage requirements will look like in 2027 and beyond. Without continued insurance coverage, affected vaccines could become significantly more expensive for consumers, even before accounting for potential pharmacy price increases.