

To champion the prevention,
diagnosis, and treatment of chest
diseases through education,
communication, and research.

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March 12, 2026

ACIP Secretariat
Attn: Chair Kirk Milhoan, M.D., Ph.D.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
1600 Clifton Road NE,
Mailstop H21-12,
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027

**RE: Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization
Practices [CDC-2026-0199]**

Dear Chair Milhoan,

On behalf of the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), we urge federal health leaders to reaffirm the value of the scientifically rigorous processes that have developed our nation's vaccines, guided federal recommendations, and saved the lives of millions of infants, children, and adults.

As pulmonary and critical care physicians, we care for the sickest patients and those with chronic lung diseases. At CHEST, we advocate for policies that prevent and treat lung disease, empower clinicians, and save lives. Widespread vaccination and broad vaccine coverage are essential to protecting respiratory and critical care patients and central to improving public health. Vaccines for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus), and COVID-19 remain among the best tools to protect the public against these illnesses and their potentially serious complications.

Multiple real-world studies demonstrate that vaccines for children and adults remain effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalization. Regularly updated vaccines for influenza and COVID-19 are pivotal in protecting against new strains. RSV vaccines are extremely effective at preventing hospitalization in both infants following maternal vaccination or via administration of nirsevimab, as well as vaccines in older adults. Both influenza and

RSV vaccines prevent not only hospitalizations related to these specific diseases, but also hospitalizations related to other outcomes including cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction and stroke.

In numerous longitudinal studies evaluating vaccine safety, there have been no significant safety signals with currently-used vaccines. Additionally, modeling has shown that if vaccination rates continue to decline, there will be inevitable resurgences of previously eliminated diseases such as measles, rubella, polio, and diphtheria. We must take action today to prevent this from happening.

To reaffirm the value of the scientifically rigorous processes and restore public trust in the recommendations of the ACIP, we urge the following steps:

- Recommend federal investment in funding for public health programs and the research necessary to keep them evidence-based and the pipeline for medical advancement moving;
- Recommend restoration of the evidence-based childhood vaccine schedule and reversal of the unilateral changes that further limit access to effective vaccines, including those for respiratory illnesses such as respiratory syncytial virus; and
- Recommend and enable easy and equitable access to vaccines and other life-saving measures, ensuring coverage for our most vulnerable populations.

Without these steps, as a nation, we will fall short of the long-standing health protections all citizens have relied upon from their government. CHEST will continue to support evidence-based immunizations to help prevent severe disease and protect public health.

Sincerely,
Neil Freedman, MD, FCCP
President

Robert Musacchio, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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