



Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Meeting December 8, 2025

Today, the U.S. took an unfortunate step backward in its commitment to vaccine policy and protecting children from vaccine preventable diseases. In a historic vote, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccine advisers recommended narrowing the agency's hepatitis B immunization guidance for newborns.

The result, if approved by the CDC's acting director, will be a rollback of a universal recommendation to start hepatitis B immunization at birth, a standard practice in the U.S. for more than 30 years that has been credited with dramatically lowering liver diseases caused by the virus.

Since 1991, the recommendation to administer a hepatitis B vaccine at birth has been key protecting the health of millions of children. It dramatically reduced childhood transmission, cutting pediatric cases by 99%, and preventing children [from severe liver complications and death](#). The votes taken by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to remove this successful and evidence-based recommendation will make it harder for parents, who chose to vaccinate, to access this critical care in a timely way. History shows that this will lead to more cases of hepatitis B and make it harder for public health to assure the health of our communities.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met December 4–5, 2025 to discuss data on the Hepatitis B virus vaccine, including the birth dose and vote on related recommendations. In the first meeting under a new chair, Kirk Milhoan, ACIP approved the following recommendations by a majority vote. These recommendations become CDC policy once adopted by the CDC's Director.

The following information is sourced from YLE, NACCHO, KFF Health News, and CDC.

Vote #1

- For infants born to HBsAG-negative women: ACIP recommends individual-based decision-making, in consultation with a healthcare provider, for parents deciding when or if to give the HBV vaccine, including birth dose. Parents and health care

providers should consider vaccine benefits, vaccine risks, and infection risks. For those not receiving the HBV birth dose, it is suggested that the initial dose is administered no earlier than 2 months of age.

* Parents and healthcare providers should also consider whether there are risks, for example, such as a household member is HBsAG-positive or when there is frequent contact with persons who have emigrated from areas where Hepatitis B is common.

- Final vote – Yes: 8, No: 3

Vote #2

- When evaluating the need for a subsequent HBV vaccine dose in children, parents should consult with healthcare providers to determine if a post-vaccination anti-HBs serology testing should be offered. Serology results should determine whether the established protective anti-HBs titer threshold of ≥ 10 mIU/mL has been achieved. The cost of this testing should be covered by insurance.
- Final vote – Yes: 6, No: 4, Abstain: 1

Vote #3 - Adopting the VFC Resolution

- The purpose of this resolution is to update the Recommended Vaccination Schedule and Intervals section to reflect updated ACIP recommendations about the use of Hepatitis B vaccine.
- Final vote – Yes: 8, No: 0, Abstain: 4

For a more detailed description of the events over the past two days, visit Your Local Epidemiologist (YLE) [HERE](#). During the two-day meeting, The Evidence Collective was fact-checking statements by presenters in real time. After identifying more than 30 falsehoods on Day 1 of the meeting, the team “lost count after 60 falsehoods” on Day 2 of the meeting. [Here is](#) the final debunk report. For more information about the inaccurate statements made during the ACIP meeting, read [Factcheck.org here](#).

Now public health organizations must ensure that messaging to parents and families is clear. The Common Health Coalition has prepared some [talking points here](#), including:

- If someone wants a birth dose, even if they don’t test positive, they still can (and should) get it. It will be covered by insurance.
- Parents can simply choose the standard 3-dose Hep B infant series and be confident their baby is protected, without any extra blood draws.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics continues to [recommend](#) routine hepatitis B vaccination for all newborns.

Statements and Resources from Health Organizations:

Illinois Department of Public Health - IDPH Statement on ACIP Action Regarding Hepatitis B Vaccine [Dr. Sameer Vohra, Director, stated](#) “As a pediatrician and a parent, I am deeply concerned by this shift away from universal newborn vaccination, particularly in the absence of any new scientific evidence to support such a change. In Illinois, we remain committed to science-based public health policy and [have recently enshrined into law](#) vaccine access and a state-level structure to provide evidenced-based recommendations.”

Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) – <https://www.idsociety.org/news--publications-new/articles/2025/statement-from-leading-medical-health-and-patient-advocacy-groups-on-cdc-vaccine-meeting/> In a statement from leading medical, health and patient advocacy groups (including APHA, ASTHO, Hepatitis Foundation, PHF, and others) on CDC Vaccine Meeting, members of IDSA stated in part, "We are deeply alarmed by the actions taken this week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The apparent goal of this meeting was to sow doubt in vaccines rather than advance sound vaccine policy, and we will all pay a price for that.”

Vaccinate Your Family (VYF) - <https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/december-acip-statement/>. In a quote from CEO, Amy Pisani: “VYF remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that no child contract diseases that science can prevent... we will continue to work side by side with providers, hospital networks and other leaders in public health to ensure that we continue to protect all children from dangerous, deadly diseases.”

American Medical Association - <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-press-releases/ama-statement-acip-meeting-0>. Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD, AMA Trustee stated, “The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice’s (ACIP) vote to weaken the birth-dose recommendation for the Hepatitis B vaccine is reckless and undermines decades of public confidence in a proven, lifesaving vaccine. Today’s action is not based on scientific evidence; disregards data supporting the effectiveness of the Hepatitis B vaccine and creates confusion for parents about how best to protect their newborns.”

American Association of Immunologists - <https://news.aai.org/2025/12/05/acip-recommendation-first-dose-hepb-vaccine/> Dr. Ulrich von Andrian, President, said in part: “AAI is extremely disappointed in the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) vote to end the recommendation of hepatitis B vaccination for all infants at birth. AAI strongly urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reject the recommendation and reaffirm the long-standing, evidence-based guidance to administer the first dose within 24 hours of birth for all infants.”

American Academy of Pediatrics - In a statement issued after the votes, the AAP said it will continue to recommend the vaccine for all newborns: "All babies should receive a first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth, a second dose at one to two months, and a third dose at six months. The pacing of these doses has been rigorously tested and proven to be safe and effective over several decades." Further, AAP President Susan Kressly, MD, FAAP, said, "I want to reassure parents and clinicians that there is no new or concerning information about the hepatitis B vaccine that is prompting this change, nor has children's risk of contracting hepatitis B changed. Instead, this is the result of a deliberate strategy to sow fear and distrust among families." [Hepatitis B immunization is critical to protect all newborns. American Academy of Pediatrics. Email statement. Accessed December 5, 2025.]

NACCHO - [NACCHO calls on federal, state, and local policymakers and public health agencies to scale up the response to viral hepatitis](#), including through vaccination. Viral hepatitis is a leading public health threat in the United States, contributing to liver cancer, transplants, and deaths. Hepatitis B immunization—particularly within the first 24 hours after birth—[is a critical tool that has prevented 6 million infections](#), improved quality of life of infants and children, and reduced expensive medical care borne by their families. The changes voted on today will put children at unnecessary risk of this complicated disease.

National Medical Association - <https://nmanet.org/news/nma-statement-on-acip-vote-to-roll-back-universal-hepatitis-b/> "The science on hepatitis B vaccination is clear, consistent and unchanged," said Dr. Roger A. Mitchell Jr., 126th president of the National Medical Association. "Rolling back universal newborn vaccination creates confusion, invites misinformation and will cause preventable disease. This decision is misaligned with evidence, medical consensus and the needs of the communities most impacted."

Center for American Progress - <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/statement-rfk-jr-s-vaccine-rollback-threaten-public-health-and-safety/>

California Medical Association - <https://www.cmadocs.org/newsroom/news/view/ArticleId/51079/CMA-calls-ACIP-hepatitis-B-vote-a-quot-profound-setback-for-child-health-in-America-quot>

National Foundation on Infectious Disease (NFID) - <https://www.nfid.org/statement-on-cdc-acip-meeting/>

Pediatric Infectious Disease Society (PIDS) - <https://pids.org/2025/12/05/pids-statement-on-acip-meetings-impact-on-public-health/>

Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP)
<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/childhood-vaccines/during-chaotic-meeting-cdc-advisers-handpicked-rfk-jr-postpone-vote-changing>

NPR - <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/12/05/nx-s1-5634004/cdc-hepatitis-b-vaccine-acip-meeting>

KFF Health News - <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/cdc-acip-hepatitis-b-birth-dose-reversal-recommendation-rfk/>

Your Local Epidemiologist (YLE) – ACIP Key Takeaways: What Really Happened and What It Means for You <https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/acip-key-takeaways-what-really-happened>

Autistic Self Advocacy Network – ASAN condemns dangerous disinformation at ACIP meeting https://autisticadvocacy.org/2025/12/asan-condemns-dangerous-disinformation-at-acip-meeting/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=asan-condemns-dangerous-disinformation-at-acip-meeting

Forbes - CDC Vaccine Advisors To Stop Recommending Hepatitis B For Newborns <https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2025/12/05/why-the-hepatitis-b-birth-dose-is-at-risk-from-new-cdc-vaccine-advisors/>

Inside Medicine - Analysis of the latest ACIP meeting at the CDC: Vaccines—and rigorous science—are increasingly under attack https://insidemedicine.substack.com/p/analysis-of-the-latest-acip-meeting?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=1183526&post_id=180840820&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=1wkqb1&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Factcheck.org --Upending decades-old guidance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s vaccine advisory committee voted to no longer issue a blanket recommendation that all newborns receive a hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Throughout the meeting, many panelists made misleading claims about the vaccine. Read more: <https://www.factcheck.org/2025/12/vaccine-panel-voting-to-change-hepatitis-b-shot-for-newborns-shares-misleading-information/>

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