



Jim O'Neill, Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
1600 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Subject: Urgent Request for Approval and Endorsement of ACIP Recommendations from September 18–19, 2025

Dear Acting Director O'Neill,

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) respectfully urges your approval and endorsement of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations issued during the September 18–19, 2025, meetings.

As you know, pharmacists are among the most accessible health care providers in the United States, with nearly 90% of Americans living within five miles of a community pharmacy. During the 2024–2025 respiratory virus season, pharmacists and pharmacy personnel administered the vast majority of adult vaccines,^{i,ii,iii} demonstrating the public's trust and reliance on pharmacists for timely, convenient, and effective immunization services. Pharmacists are highly trained to assess individual patient risks and benefits, engage in shared clinical decision-making, and provide evidence-based care.

The current delay in CDC endorsement of ACIP recommendations is creating confusion and barriers to vaccine access. In many states, pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines is directly tied to CDC schedules and ACIP recommendations through individual state-level statutes, regulations, and protocols. Without CDC's formal approval, pharmacists in these states are unable to administer updated vaccines, despite patient demand and clinical need. This is particularly concerning for vulnerable populations, including children, whose access to vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is also contingent upon CDC endorsement. Additionally, without endorsement from the CDC director, this poses insurance coverage challenges, as many health plans rely on approved CDC guidance to determine eligibility and reimbursement for vaccines. This further delays access and creates financial barriers for patients seeking protection against infectious diseases.

As Acting CDC Director, APhA respectfully recommends CDC:

- Approve and endorse the ACIP recommendations from the September 18–19 meetings to restore clarity and access.
- Support pharmacists' authority to vaccinate in alignment with ACIP guidance, ensuring patients can receive vaccines without undue restrictions.
- Enable full participation in the Vaccines for Children program, allowing pharmacies and other clinicians to protect vulnerable pediatric populations.

Your leadership is crucial to maintaining the integrity of our immunization infrastructure and ensuring that Americans have timely access to life-saving vaccines. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued commitment to public health.

Most sincerely,



Brigid K. Groves, PharmD, MS
Vice President, Professional Affairs

ⁱ COVID-19 vaccinations administered in pharmacies and medical offices*, adults 18 years and older, United States. (2025, May 7). COVIDVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/covidvaxview/weekly-dashboard/vaccinations-administered-pharmacies-medical.html>

ⁱⁱ Influenza vaccinations administered in pharmacies and physician medical offices*, adults, United States. (2025, May 7). FluVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/fluvoxview/dashboard/adult-vaccinations-administered.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations administered in pharmacies and physician medical offices*, adults, United States. (2025, May 7). RSVVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/rsvvaxview/dashboard/adult-vaccinations-administered.html>