

## **Statement from Leading Medical, Health and Patient Advocacy Groups on CDC Vaccine Meeting**

Dec. 5, 2020<sup>5</sup>— “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.

“This is a significant departure from the historic role ACIP has played in shaping vaccine policy in the United States. Previously, we could expect science to drive decisions, experts to debate evidence, and consensus to lead to shared, clear recommendations. That is not the case with the current committee, and this change puts Americans’ health at risk.

“For example, ACIP’s decision to downgrade the longstanding recommendation to vaccinate all newborns against hepatitis B at birth will lead to more childhood hepatitis B infections, will lead to more chronic infections that will follow patients into adulthood, and will complicate vaccine access for children. No new data was presented during the ACIP meeting to justify this change.

“The evidence remains clear: the hepatitis B birth dose is safe and an essential component in helping children develop immunity against a serious, potentially lifelong disease. In fact, since the U.S. implemented the hepatitis B birth dose in 1991, annual hepatitis B infections among infants and children have dropped 99%, from 16,000 to less than 20. This progress is directly attributable to timely vaccination.

“ACIP’s actions will harm children, their families and the medical professionals who care for them. That is why we are joining together to speak up. American families deserve information grounded in science and clear, consistent guidance – not speculation intended to scare them. We urge the CDC leaders to reject ACIP’s new recommendation and instead retain the current, evidence-based approach.”

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American Academy of Pediatrics  
Academic Pediatric Association  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Nurse Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Families for Vaccines

American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association (AMGA)  
American Pediatric Society  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)  
American Society for Meningitis Prevention  
America's Physician Groups  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Caregiver Action Network  
Families Fighting Flu  
Families USA  
Georgetown University Center for Children and Families  
Global Liver Institute  
HealthHIV  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Vaccine Access Center  
March of Dimes  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology  
Nurses Who Vaccinate  
Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Public Health Foundation  
Sepsis Alliance  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Trusted Messenger Program  
Vaccinate Your Family  
Vaccine Integrity Project

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