

Navigating the Shifting Federal Immunization Policy Landscape & Implications for States

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Agenda

Overview of Vaccinate Your Family

Rapid Chaos and Confusion: Federal Immunization Policy Overview

The State of State Immunization Policy

Impact for Providers, Parents, and Communities

Looking Ahead

Vaccinate Your Family

We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded 35 years ago by Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers and Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

Our mission is to protect people of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccinate Your Family Priority Areas



Policy

Vaccinate Your Family is focused on the best ways to educate policymakers in our dynamic vaccine information and policy environment.



Community

We're finding new ways to educate and engage trusted messengers, including advocates, community health workers, and a wide range of partner organizations.



Communications

Vaccinate Your Family is growing our platforms, resources, and storytelling strategies to amplify evidence-based information about vaccines and the diseases they prevent.



Vaccinate Your Family's Policy Work



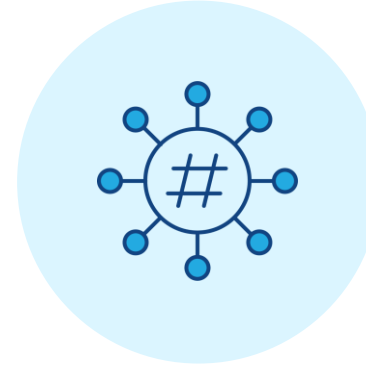
Federal and State Advocacy

- Direct lobbying to increase funding and improve vaccine access
- Commentary on state bills that harm immunization uptake



Education

- Weekly Vaccine Intelligence Report newsletter to the Hill and partners
- Yearly State of the ImmUnion® report
- Creation of policy briefs and other resources for public



Coalitions

- Participation in state and federal coalitions to amplify our asks



Grassroots Advocacy

- Activation of pro-vaccine voices through action alerts that send messages directly to legislators and Congress

Rapid Chaos and Confusion: Federal Immunization Policy Overview

Double-reverse: FDA now says it will review Moderna's mRNA flu vaccine

A new poll shows who Americans trust over the **CDC**
3rd party ad content

Judge blocks RFK Jr. from scaling back childhood vaccine recommendations

Kennedy rewrites rules on CDC panel after judge blocks childhood vaccine changes

CDC delays publishing report showing covid vaccine benefits

Vaccine lawsuit against Kennedy could reach Supreme Court

Kennedy's Vaccine Agenda Hits Roadblocks, Diminishing His Clout

Kennedy Sought to Fire C.D.C. Director Over Vaccine Policy

CDC's new claim that vaccines cannot be ruled out as autism cause leads to confusion, misinformation, public health experts say

Kennedy announces new vaccine advisory committee members after meeting rescheduled

AAP Breaks With CDC, Maintains Broader 2026 Childhood and Adolescent Vaccine Schedule

Hepatitis B vaccine guidance set to be rolled back for US babies: what the science says

Federal Role in Immunization Policy



Development of Immunization Schedule

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations for the immunization schedule
- The ACIP recommendations are adopted by the CDC Director to become the childhood/adolescent and adult immunization schedules



Insurance Coverage

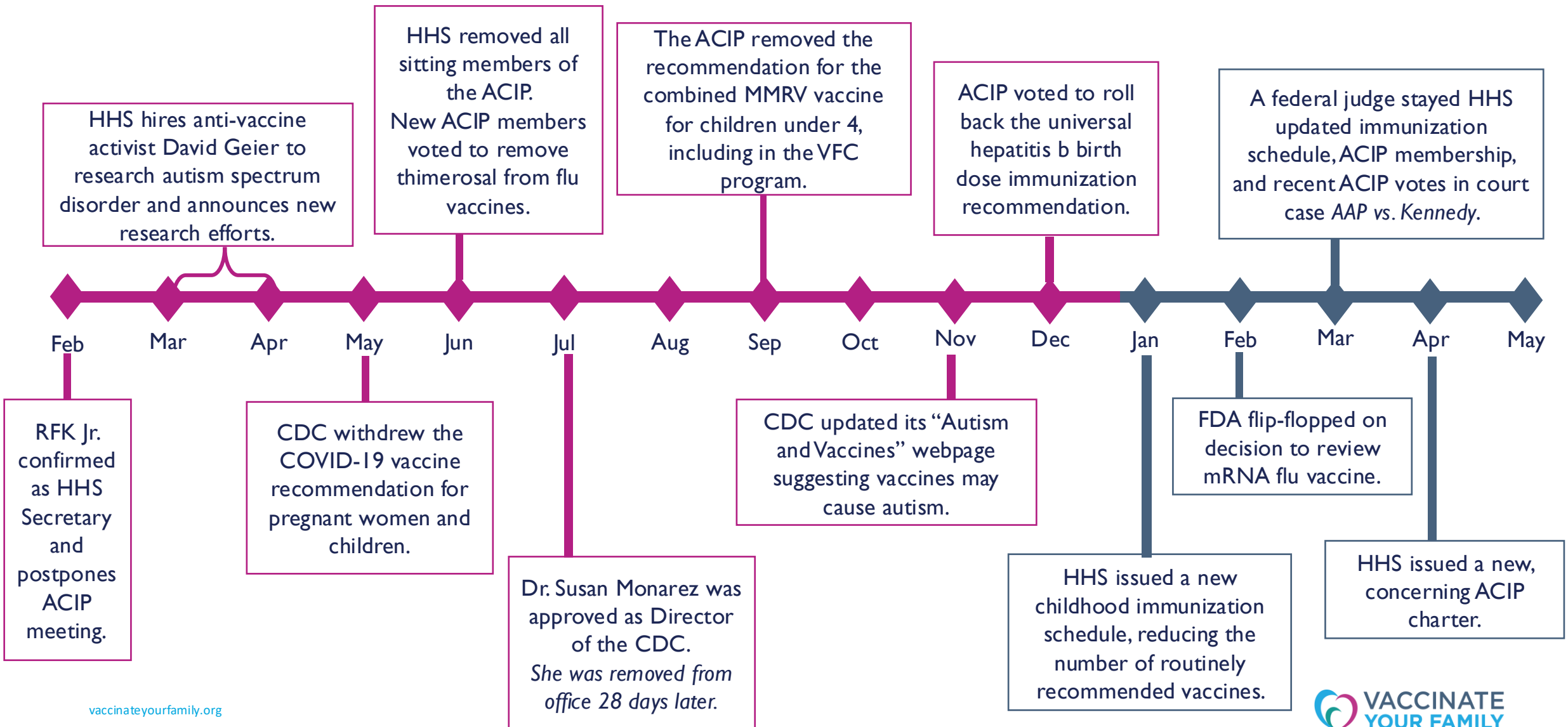
- Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) ACIP-recommended vaccines must be covered for most insured children and adults with no cost-sharing
- By law, the ACIP develops the list for products included in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program



Liability Protections

- The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) provides liability protections for providers and manufacturers for most CDC-recommended vaccines for children and pregnant people
- The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act provides nationwide pharmacist/technician authority and liability protections for ACIP-recommended vaccines

Key Federal Vaccine Policy Changes Since 2025



Current Federal Dynamic

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) vs. Kennedy

The March federal judge ruling:

1

Blocks the implementation of the Jan 5th childhood immunization schedule

2

Finds that 13 members of the ACIP were appointed unlawfully and halts their previous decisions

3

Effectively prevents the ACIP from meeting

for the duration of the case.

What to Watch



New ACIP Charter

CDC published a new, concerning updated ACIP charter



Federal Funding

Congress has started the FY2027 budget process



VICP

Petition to add 300+ injuries to VICP



Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations

Uncertainty in the approval and recommendation of seasonal vaccines



HHS Leadership

New CDC Director and other leaders have been nominated

State Role in Immunization Policy



Immunization Requirements and Information Sharing

- Establish required immunizations for childcare and school attendance, healthcare workers, and other occupational requirements
- Dictate information shared about vaccines via the health department and schools



Scope of Practice and Standing Orders

- Determine which healthcare professionals can administer vaccines, age groups they can serve, and training requirements
- Issue standing orders to vaccinate



Immunization Information Systems

- Create laws and rules around data entry, data sharing, and opt-in for IIS



Vaccine Purchasing

- Establish purchasing mechanisms, like Universal Purchase or vaccines for uninsured adults



Insurance Coverage and Reimbursement

- Regulate coverage requirements for state regulated plans
- Set Medicaid eligibility requirements, coverage, and reimbursement rates

Federal Role in State Immunization Policy

ACIP References in State Policies

- ✓ Education and occupational immunization requirements
- ✓ Insurance coverage/cost-sharing provisions
- ✓ Provider scope of practice laws and standing orders
- ✓ Required vaccine information
- ✓ Vaccine purchasing determinations
- ✓ Notifications for recommended/overdue immunizations

Prior to 2026

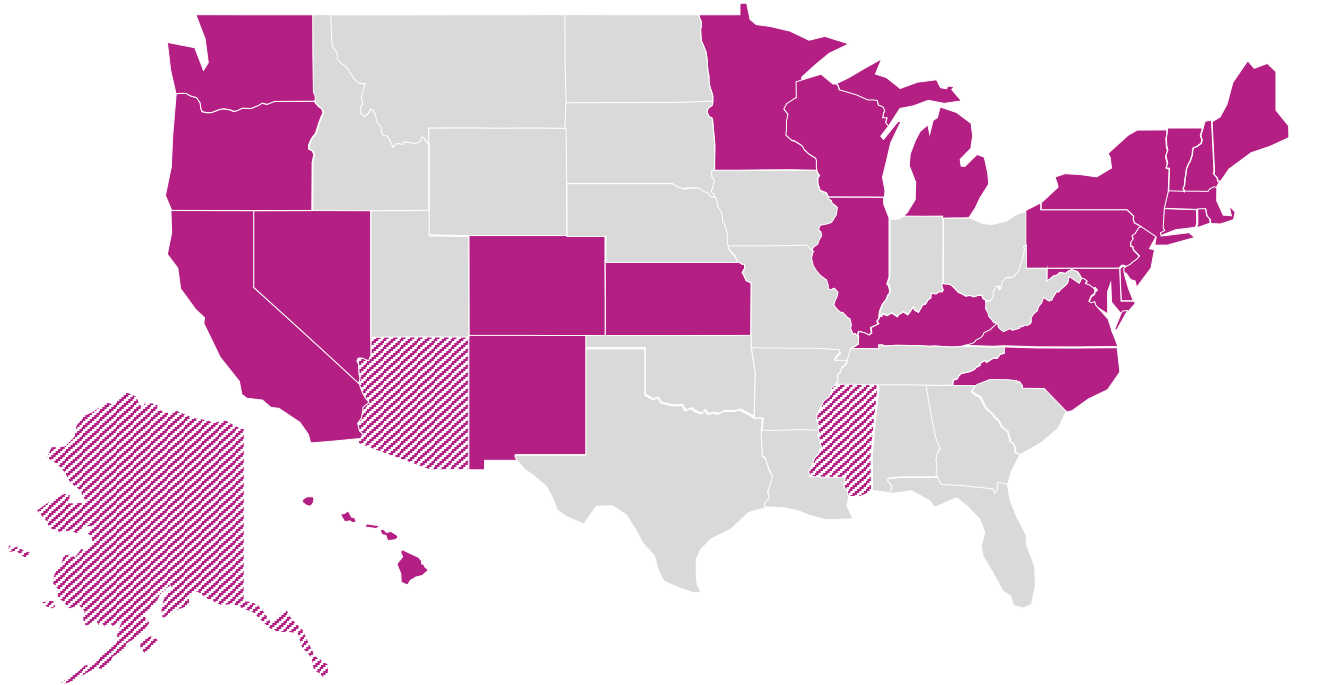


References to ACIP were found in nearly

600

State statutes and regulations

Growing Political Divide in State Policy



■ CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MN, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VA, VT, WA, WI

▨ AK, AZ, MS

■ State relies on a source other than CDC/ACIP for vaccine guidance

▨ State relies on a source other than CDC/ACIP for guidance specific to Covid and/or hepatitis B vaccines

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Source: KEE (March 2026)

2026 State Legislative Session Themes

- + Adding provisions for evidence-based recommendations
- + Establishing no cost-sharing for previously recommended vaccines
- + Broadening pharmacist scope of practice and liability protections
- + Expanding vaccine access for uninsured adults and alternative purchasing mechanisms
- Sudden Infant Death investigation
- mRNA-related bills and restrictions
- Changes to school immunization requirements
- Efforts to reduce access, like parental consent requirements



Impact for Parents, Providers, and Communities

1

Confusion

- Uncertainty about recommended vaccines
- Declines in trust in federal government
- Rapidly changing recommendations

2

Access Challenges

- Providers may change stocking patterns
- Potential changes in pharmacy access
- Concerns about cost

3

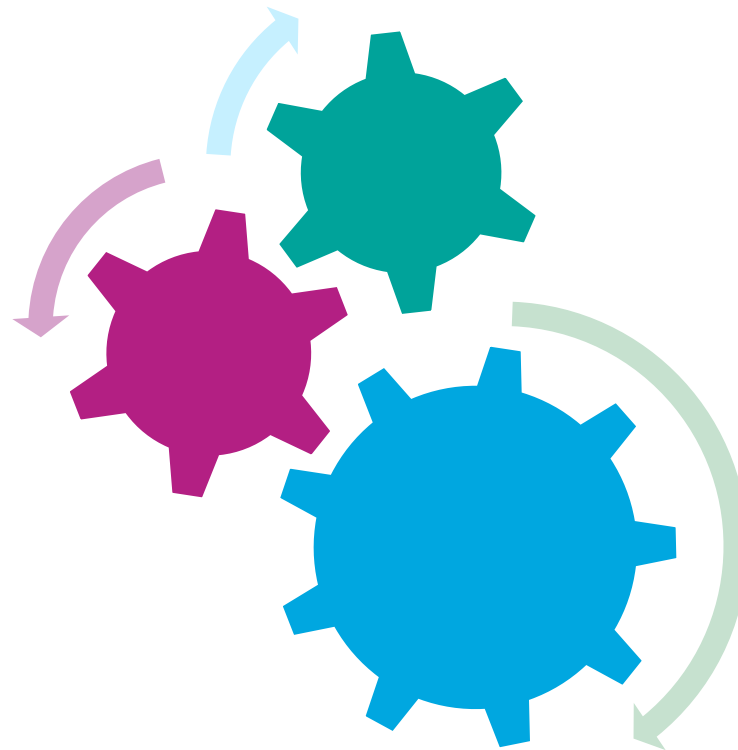
Liability Protections

- Concerns that providers, including pharmacists, lack federal liability protections
- State specific approach

4

Lower Vaccination Coverage Rates

- Declines are continuing
- Increasing outbreaks



Common Misconceptions Circulating



Shared clinical decision-making (SCDM) vaccines do not need to be covered by payers?



No, by law vaccines with a SCDM recommendation must be covered by most payers.



Vaccines have been removed from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program?



No! All previously recommended vaccines remain available through VFC.



Providers do not have federal liability protections?



Currently, federal liability protections remain in place for most products/providers. There is an outstanding legal question about protections for pharmacists and COVID vaccines.

Looking Ahead

 Early positive outcome of *AAP* vs. *Kennedy*

 Responsive medical organizations issuing evidence-based recommendations

 High level of trust in individual providers

 Level federal funding

 Risks to the VICP

 New ACIP charter

 Partisan divide in protective policies

 Uncertainty around seasonal respiratory vaccines approvals and recommendations

 Lack of trust in federal government

 Declining coverage rates and outbreaks

 Changes to insurance costs and eligibility

Vaccinate Your Family Resources



Vaccine Intelligence Report

Weekly clear, fact-based updates on vaccine policy, research, and public health each week. The VIR offers concise information to navigate the evolving landscape.



Vaccinate Your Family University

Free online courses on specific vaccine-preventable diseases, the history of vaccines, and how to have conversations about vaccination.



State of the ImmUnion[®] Report

Annual report to Congress with recommendations, customizable partner template, and action alert to submit these recommendations to Congress.



Questions?

Thank You!



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