

AMERICA'S PHYSICIAN GROUPS

APG's Policy On Vaccines

Issued July 25, 2024

Introduction: The members of America's Physician Groups –approximately 340 physician groups caring for an estimated one in four Americans -- are committed to providing value-based health care. This approach means delivering patient-focused, coordinated, high-value health care and being fully accountable for its costs and quality. An essential pillar of high value care is delivering evidence-based preventive care and services that are proven to reduce the burden of illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccines are the epitome of value-based care: They prevent illness or its most serious forms; reduce the burden of disease; are generally very cost-effective; and save lives.

Due to this strong evidence base, vaccines have long been considered an integral part of preventive care. Vaccines have reduced and even eradicated disease, disability, and death from many once commonplace infectious diseases, such as measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and smallpox. Each season they protect people from hospitalizations, and time spent unnecessarily away from their families and work, by preventing the most serious complications from such conditions as influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. They are a critical component of achieving optimal health outcomes for individuals, communities, and the nation.

Ensuring vaccine effectiveness and safety: Vaccines in use in the United States are rigorously tested in clinical trials and then scrutinized through thorough study and review before they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After the FDA approves and licenses the vaccine, that agency monitors the vaccine's manufacturing safety. An important advisory committee to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), develops recommendations on use of the vaccine by different populations; multiple leading national medical societies weigh in on these recommendations as well. Afterward, as a vaccine is being widely administered, its safety is monitored continuously by the CDC and FDA. This robust system in place in the United States ensures that all recommended vaccines are safe and effective and that recommendations regarding their use are updated regularly based on the latest safety data and scientific evidence.

Policy concerns: The recent changes made in the composition of the ACIP are concerning, as a well-vetted and credentialed panel was summarily dismissed and replaced for no creditable reason. It is critical that CDC's leadership, and the U.S. government overall, are counseled by independent advisors who have demonstrated expertise in vaccine science. APG members, their patients, and indeed, all Americans deserve a panel that provides an unbiased and proper review of scientific data related to vaccines.

Health Risks: Preserving access to vaccines for patients of all ages according to medical society guidelines is especially important for the forthcoming fall and winter seasons. Respiratory viruses by nature spread readily and the resulting illness causes significant harm every year. Between October 2024 and the late spring of 2025, the CDC [estimates](#), between 33,000 to 52,000 Americans died of COVID-19; between 27,000 and 130,000 Americans died of [influenza](#), and 10,000 to 23,000 Americans died of [RSV](#). The overall burden of sickness is much higher, with an estimated 2 million Americans hospitalized for these conditions over the same period.

APG's Recommendations: It is important that patients receive the influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines [endorsed](#) by nearly 80 medical societies and other health care organizations for the 2025-2026 respiratory virus season. As always, APG's physician groups want to care for their patients and to answer any questions that they have about their risks for illness and the role of vaccines in reducing these risks. The physicians and medical teams of APG's member groups are always the best sources of information about vaccines for their patients and patients' families.

###