

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write with deep concern regarding your decision to unilaterally dismiss all 17 members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), as announced in an opinion column published on June 9, 2025, in *The Wall Street Journal*.¹ This reckless decision to remove all of the nonpartisan medical and public health experts who evaluate and recommend adult and childhood immunizations is the latest move in your radical anti-science approach to public health and vaccination, and raises serious questions about who you plan to appoint to ACIP in their place given your history of spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories regarding vaccines.² In order to understand how you made this decision and to ensure that you do not replace scientific experts with anti-vaccine ideologues, we request information and documents related to your June 9, 2025, dismissal of all ACIP members.

Vaccines are one of the most important public health innovations of the modern era, saving millions of lives every year. Each year, childhood vaccination prevents approximately 4 million deaths globally.³ Over the past 50 years, vaccines against 14 common pathogens have saved approximately 154 million lives across the globe and decreased infant mortality by 40%.⁴ In the United States, for the approximately 117 million children born between 1994 and 2023,

¹ *RFK Jr.: HHS Moves to Restore Public Trust in Vaccines* (June 9, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/opinion/rfk-jr-hhs-moves-to-restore-public-trust-in-vaccines-45495112); See also *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, *New York Times* (June 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html).

² See Brookings, *RFK Jr.'s History of Medical Misinformation Raises Concerns Over HHS Nomination* (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/rfk-jr-s-history-of-medical-misinformation-raises-concerns-over-hhs-nomination/).

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Fast Facts on Global Immunization* (Sept. 19, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/global-immunization/fast-facts/index.html).

⁴ *The Staggering Success of Vaccines*, *Nature* (Oct. 23, 2024) (online at www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03412-3).

the CDC estimates that routine childhood vaccinations will prevent approximately 508 million cases of illness, approximately 32 million hospitalizations, and more than 1.1 million deaths.⁵

ACIP is comprised of medical and public health experts who serve four-year terms at overlapping intervals. ACIP holds public meetings at least three times per year at which they “review findings and discuss vaccine research and scientific data related to vaccine effectiveness and safety, clinical trial results, and manufacturer’s labeling or package insert information.”⁶ Based on this evaluation of vaccine safety and efficacy, ACIP develops recommendations on the use of vaccines, including who should receive a vaccine and the number and frequency of doses. These recommendations are used by CDC to develop immunization schedules for adults and children.⁷

ACIP and CDC’s recommendations are critical for ensuring that Americans have access to lifesaving vaccines. Insurance companies, including government insurance programs, are required to cover the vaccines that CDC recommends.⁸ This includes the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, which provides vaccines at no cost to uninsured children, Medicaid-eligible or Medicaid-enrolled children, and American Indian or Alaska Native children.⁹ As one example of the impact that ACIP has had on pediatric health, vaccinations based on ACIP recommendations have nearly eliminated or substantially decreased hospitalization rates for babies with illnesses caused by rotavirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).¹⁰

Given the impact that vaccines can have on the health of individual children and on entire communities, medical professionals have urged that vaccine policy be based on science and set

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Health and Economic Benefits of Routine Childhood Immunizations in the Era of the Vaccines for Children Program—United States, 1994-2023* (Aug. 8, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7331a2.htm). See also Center for American Progress, *Childhood Vaccination Has Saved Millions of Lives, but Rising Hesitancy Could Reverse Decades of Progress* (Jan. 8, 2025) (online at [www.americanprogress.org/article/childhood-vaccination-has-saved-millions-of-lives-but-rising-hesitancy-could-reverse-decades-of-progress/#:~:text=Childhood%20vaccines%20also%20prevent%20and,cough\)%3B%20and%20other%20diseases](http://www.americanprogress.org/article/childhood-vaccination-has-saved-millions-of-lives-but-rising-hesitancy-could-reverse-decades-of-progress/#:~:text=Childhood%20vaccines%20also%20prevent%20and,cough)%3B%20and%20other%20diseases)).

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in CDC’s Vaccine Recommendations* (Sept. 17, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/about/role-in-vaccine-recommendations.html).

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *General Committee-Related Information* (Dec. 16, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/about/index.html); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in CDC’s Vaccine Recommendations* (Sept. 17, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/about/role-in-vaccine-recommendations.html).

⁸ *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, New York Times (June 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html).

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *About the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program* (June 26, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Eligibility* (July 1, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/hcp/program-eligibility/index.html).

¹⁰ *RFK Jr. to Fire All Members of the CDC’s Vaccine Advisory Committee*, Politico (June 9, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/06/09/rfk-jr-to-fire-all-members-of-the-cdcs-vaccine-advisory-committee-00395235).

by experts, not based on politics and set by ideologues.¹¹ Individuals appointed to ACIP serve overlapping terms that are not tied to specific presidential administrations.¹² Consistent turnover on ACIP as the political winds change threatens to wreak havoc on vaccine recommendations, leading to fewer children getting vaccinated and an inconsistent pattern of vaccination even among children only a few years apart in age. Children born under one presidential administration should not be better protected from death and serious illness than children who happen to be born under the next.

Indeed, pediatric and public health experts have warned of the risks that will come from your indiscriminate dismissal of all ACIP members. The chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Sean O’Leary, described this mass termination as “an unmitigated public health disaster.”¹³ Former CDC Director Dr. Thomas R. Frieden has expressed concern that if the change in ACIP membership “leads to vaccines not being recommended, millions of people could lose access, pay more for vaccines and for preventable illnesses, and children will be at greater risk of diseases we haven’t faced in decades.”¹⁴

Members of ACIP reportedly learned of their dismissal through the opinion piece that you published in *The Wall Street Journal*.¹⁵ Notably, this op-ed substantially misrepresented ACIP’s membership and how it operates.¹⁶ You claimed that ACIP members had received substantial funding from pharmaceutical companies; in reality, ACIP members and their immediate family are screened for major conflicts of interest, including employment by or board membership at a vaccine manufacturer or holding a patent on a vaccine or related product.¹⁷ You also cited a misleading claim about the number of financial disclosure forms filed by ACIP members that were found to have errors, without explaining that those errors were not significant financial conflicts, but rather missing dates or information having been entered into the wrong section.¹⁸

¹¹ See e.g., Doctors for America, *Doctors for America Calls for Transparency in COVID-19 Regulation* (May 30, 2025) (online at <https://doctorsforamerica.org/sr-covid-vaccine-reg/>); American Academy of Family Physicians, *America’s Leading Physician Groups Unequivocally Support COVID-19 Vaccines* (Feb. 15, 2024) (online at www.aafp.org/news/media-center/statements/physician-unequivocally-support-covid-19-vaccines.html).

¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Policies and Procedures* (June 2022) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/Policies-Procedures-508_1.pdf).

¹³ *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, New York Times (June 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *RFK Jr. To Fire All Members of the CDC’s Vaccine Advisory Committee*, Politico (June 9, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/06/09/rfk-jr-to-fire-all-members-of-the-cdcs-vaccine-advisory-committee-00395235).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, New York Times (June 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in CDC’s Vaccine Recommendations* (Sept. 17, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/about/role-in-vaccine-recommendations.html).

¹⁸ *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, New York Times (June 9, 2025) (online at

Your decision to dismiss all 17 ACIP members follows a demonstrated history of promoting vaccine misinformation and conspiracy theories. You founded an anti-vaccine nonprofit and served on its board before beginning your failed presidential campaign.¹⁹ In 2021, NPR identified you as one of 12 individuals responsible for more than 65% of social media shares of vaccine misinformation.²⁰ Since becoming secretary of HHS, you have consistently attacked vaccines, including by: cutting billions of dollars in funding to state health agencies, including funding that would have helped modernize state programs for childhood immunization; halting National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for researchers who study vaccine hesitancy; canceling programs working to discover new vaccines that would prevent future pandemics; ending work attempting to develop an HIV vaccine; and canceling a contract for a vaccine that protects against avian influenza amid a nationwide outbreak.²¹ Most recently you took away millions of Americans' choice to receive an annual COVID-19 vaccine, and unilaterally changed CDC's recommendation that pregnant people and children over six months of age receive the COVID-19 vaccine, despite significant data showing the importance of vaccination for protecting those very populations from severe cases of COVID-19.²²

Your anti-vaccine positions are so extreme that even members of your own party are concerned that you are a danger to public health. In order to be confirmed by the Senate, you promised Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Bill Cassidy that you would "maintain the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices without changes." Just four months later you appear to have reversed course. Your dangerous and conspiratorial thinking threatens to throw routine vaccinations into chaos, risking the lives of children and families around the country. We therefore request the following information and documents by June 24, 2025:

1. All communications and documents, including but not limited to decision memos and attachments, regarding HHS's decision to dismiss all ACIP members on June 9, 2025;
2. A detailed description of the rationale for removing each individual who served on ACIP as of June 8, 2025, including but not limited to all factors considered in making the decision to remove that individual from ACIP and the credentials that

www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html).

¹⁹ The Defender, *Robert F. Kennedy Jr.* (online at <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/authors/robert-f-kennedy-jr/>) (accessed June 9, 2025); *Inside RFK Jr.'s Nonprofit's Legal Battles Over Vaccines and Public Health*, NPR (Dec. 4, 2024) (online at www.npr.org/2024/12/03/nx-s1-5198506/rfk-jr-anti-vaccine-chd-lawsuits).

²⁰ *Just 12 People Are Behind Most Vaccine Hoaxes On Social Media, Research Shows*, NPR (May 14, 2024) (online at www.npr.org/2021/05/13/996570855/disinformation-dozen-test-facebooks-twitthers-ability-to-curb-vaccine-hoaxes).

²¹ *Kennedy Removes All C.D.C. Vaccine Panel Experts*, New York Times (June 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/06/09/health/rfk-jr-cdc-vaccine-panel.html).

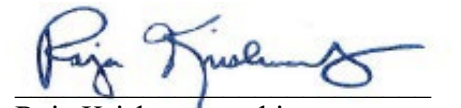
²² *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html); *RFK Jr. Ends Coronavirus Shot Recommendation for Healthy Children, Pregnant Women*, Washington Post (May 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/27/covid-vaccine-children-recommendation-rfk/).

HHS determined that individual was lacking that made him or her ineligible for their role;

3. A detailed list of all individuals consulted in making the decision to dismiss all ACIP members on June 9, 2025;
4. All internal communications between any individual at HHS and any of the dismissed ACIP members between January 20, 2025, and June 9, 2025; and
5. All communications and documents regarding the potential appointment of new ACIP members following the mass dismissal on June 9, 2025.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Stephen F. Lynch
Acting Ranking Member
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care and
Financial Services

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

The Honorable Glenn Grothman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services

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June 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write with serious concern regarding the Trump Administration's decision to take away the choice of millions of Americans to receive annual vaccinations against COVID-19. Given your history of promoting medical misinformation and conspiracy theories¹ and the fact that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) appears to have circumvented certain medical experts in making its recent determination that only a subset of Americans should have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, we are concerned that this decision reflects your anti-vaccine agenda instead of scientific or expert consensus on what is best for the health of the American people. We therefore request information and documents related to HHS's recent decision and a detailed explanation of how you plan to ensure that all Americans are able to easily receive an affordable COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 continues to impact people across the United States. For far too many, COVID-19 remains a life-threatening illness, with approximately 1,000 people dying of COVID-19 each week as recently as February 2025.² COVID-19 infection can also cause long-term health problems for years after a mild or moderate case of the virus.³ To enhance immunity and lessen the effects of COVID-19, HHS has recommended that all Americans over 6 months of age receive a COVID-19 vaccine and an annual booster.⁴ Your recent decision to reverse course and

¹ See e.g., Brookings, RFK Jr.'s History of Medical Misinformation Raises Concerns Over HHS Nomination (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/rfk-jr-s-history-of-medical-misinformation-raises-concerns-over-hhs-nomination/).

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *COVID Data Tracker* (online at https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_weeklydeaths_select_00) (accessed June 4, 2025).

³ *COVID is Still Evolving and Will Find New Ways to Evade Immune Systems, Scientists Say*, NPR (Mar. 11, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/03/11/nx-s1-5312100/covid-virus-mutation-evolution); WashU Medicine, *Risk of Death from COVID-19 Lessens, But Infection Still Can Cause Issues 3 Years Later* (May 30, 2024) (online at <https://medicine.washu.edu/news/covid-can-cause-new-health-problems-3-years-after-infection/>).

⁴ *COVID is Still Evolving and Will Find New Ways to Evade Immune Systems, Scientists Say*, NPR (Mar. 11, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/03/11/nx-s1-5312100/covid-virus-mutation-evolution); *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html).

limit access to these lifesaving vaccines demonstrates a cavalier attitude towards the clear danger of COVID-19 and threatens to make Americans sicker.

On May 23, 2025, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Martin Makary and FDA vaccine division chief Dr. Vinay Prasad published an article in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) indicating that FDA will soon change its authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines and only approve those vaccines for individuals over 65 years of age and other “high-risk persons.”⁵ The next day, HHS announced in a post on the social media site X that the COVID-19 vaccine would no longer be recommended for healthy pregnant women and healthy children.⁶ Following this announcement, the co-leader of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Work Group on COVID-19 vaccines—which reviews the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines and develops COVID-19 vaccine policy options—resigned. In announcing her resignation, Dr. Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos cited concerns that she was no longer able “to help the most vulnerable members of our population.”⁷

Removing COVID-19 vaccines from the recommended vaccine schedule for the majority of Americans will make the vaccine impossible to access for many people under the age of 65 who do not fall into HHS’s current definition of “high risk” for severe COVID-19, but who would nonetheless benefit from vaccination. Health insurers are legally required to cover at no cost vaccines recommended by CDC’s vaccine advisory panel. It is likely that health insurers will no longer cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines once they are removed from this list.⁸ Yet people with lower incomes—who are less likely to receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it is not covered by insurance—suffer some of the worst outcomes from COVID-19.⁹ Others, including health care workers and school teachers, have jobs that make them more likely to frequently contract COVID-19.¹⁰ Even those who will remain eligible for vaccination because of a

⁵ *F.D.A. Poised to Restrict Access to Covid Vaccines*, New York Times (May 20, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/20/health/fda-covid-vaccines.html).

⁶ *RFK Jr. Ends Coronavirus Shot Recommendation for Healthy Children, Pregnant Women*, Washington Post (May 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/27/covid-vaccine-children-recommendation-rfk/).

⁷ *CDC Official Overseeing COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations Resigns*, CBS News (June 4, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/cdc-official-overseeing-covid-19-vaccine-recommendations-resigns/); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP): ACIP Work Groups* (Dec. 14, 2024) (online at www.cdc.gov/acip/our-work/index.html#heading-uuf6nwjsay).

⁸ *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ See *F.D.A. Poised to Restrict Access to Covid Vaccines*, New York Times (May 20, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/20/health/fda-covid-vaccines.html); *RFK Jr. Ends Coronavirus Shot Recommendation for Healthy Children, Pregnant Women*, Washington Post (May 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/27/covid-vaccine-children-recommendation-rfk/); *Cold and Flu and Walking Pneumonia, Oh My! How Teachers Can Stay Healthy This Winter*, EducationWeek (Dec. 9, 2024) (online at www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/cold-and-flu-and-walking-pneumonia-oh-my-how-teachers-can-stay-healthy-this-winter/2024/12); University of Minnesota, *Studies Detail High Rates of Long COVID Among Healthcare, Dental Workers* (Apr. 23, 2025) (online at www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/studies-detail-high-rates-long-covid-

preexisting health condition may struggle to access the COVID-19 vaccine if it is only recommended for certain populations. Currently, patients are not required to show pharmacists proof of underlying conditions in order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, ensuring people are not prevented from getting the vaccine because of burdensome paperwork. By limiting insurance coverage to only individuals with qualifying health conditions, patients may be required to provide documentation of these conditions to pharmacies and health insurers, creating new and unnecessary barriers to necessary care.¹¹

According to experts, HHS's decision to limit eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine is not based on any new evidence that changes our understanding of the effectiveness or side effects of the vaccines. There is, however, significant data showing the importance of vaccination for some of the very populations that will no longer have access to the vaccine.¹² For example, children under two years of age have an elevated risk of hospitalization from COVID-19, even when those children have no underlying health conditions.¹³ Pregnant women are more likely to experience severe cases of COVID-19, and have an increased risk of pregnancy complications, including stillbirth, if infected with COVID-19 while pregnant.¹⁴

We are deeply concerned that HHS is making these decisions based not on reliable and evidence-based scientific deliberation, but because of your demonstrated history of anti-vaccine advocacy. You reportedly did not inform CDC officials before announcing on X that CDC would no longer be including COVID-19 vaccines on routine vaccination lists for pregnant women and children, and there is no evidence that this change was based on recommendations from experts and scientists at CDC. It also appears that you may have made this decision without consulting your colleagues at FDA, as your announcement contradicts Dr. Makary and Dr. Prasad's NEJM article published the day before—that article indicated that “pregnancy and recent pregnancy” were conditions that would make someone eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine even under FDA's new standards. This appears to be the first time an HHS secretary has unilaterally changed an existing recommendation from a CDC advisory committee,¹⁵ and raises

among-healthcare-dental-workers).

¹¹ *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html).

¹² *F.D.A. Poised to Restrict Access to Covid Vaccines*, New York Times (May 20, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/20/health/fda-covid-vaccines.html); *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html).

¹³ *The F.D.A. May Restrict Covid Shots. Who Will Be Able to Get Them?*, New York Times (May 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/health/covid-vaccine-restrictions-eligibility.html).

¹⁴ *RFK Jr. Ends Coronavirus Shot Recommendation for Healthy Children, Pregnant Women*, Washington Post (May 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/27/covid-vaccine-children-recommendation-rfk/).

¹⁵ *RFK Jr. Ends Coronavirus Shot Recommendation for Healthy Children, Pregnant Women*, Washington Post (May 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/27/covid-vaccine-children-recommendation-rfk/).

important questions about your role in this decision given that you have repeatedly promoted medical misinformation and conspiracy theories, including vaccine misinformation.¹⁶

In 2021, NPR identified you as one of 12 individuals responsible for more than 65% of social media shares of vaccine misinformation.¹⁷ When these concerns were raised in connection with your nomination as HHS Secretary, you stated: “If vaccines are working for somebody, I’m not going to take them away. People ought to have choice.”¹⁸ Your actions this week directly contradict this promise, by taking away vaccines from many people for whom they are working, and by limiting patient choice.

To understand HHS’s recent decisions to limit COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to certain populations, and the role that medical misinformation may have played in that decision, we request the following information and documents by June 24, 2025:

1. All communications and documents regarding HHS’s decision to limit vaccine eligibility to individuals over 65 or with certain preexisting health conditions;
2. All communications and documents regarding Dr. Makary and Dr. Prasad’s May 20, 2025, NEJM article, including drafts and all communications between HHS and NEJM;
3. All communications and documents regarding Secretary Kennedy’s May 27, 2025, video posted on X, including but not limited to communications regarding the decision to make changes to CDC guidance without the input of CDC leadership;
4. All decision memos and attachments which were prepared by HHS, including by the Office of the Secretary, CDC, or FDA including the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, regarding the decision to change vaccine eligibility recommendations;
5. All communications and documents regarding HHS’s decision to no longer recommend the COVID-19 vaccine to children and pregnant women;
6. All communications with vaccine manufacturers since January 20, 2025, regarding COVID-19 vaccines;

¹⁶ See e.g., Brookings, RFK Jr.’s History of Medical Misinformation Raises Concerns Over HHS Nomination (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/rfk-jr-s-history-of-medical-misinformation-raises-concerns-over-hhs-nomination/).

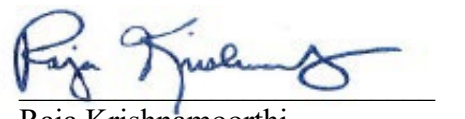
¹⁷ *Just 12 People Are Behind Most Vaccine Hoaxes On Social Media, Research Shows*, NPR (May 14, 2024) (online at www.npr.org/2021/05/13/996570855/disinformation-dozen-test-facebooks-twitters-ability-to-curb-vaccine-hoaxes).

¹⁸ *What RFK Jr Could Do on US Vaccines, Flouride and Drugs*, BBC (Jan. 28, 2025) (online at www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gx3kkz8z3o).

7. All information, including but not limited to scientific studies and expert analyses, that HHS consulted in making the decision to no longer recommend COVID-19 vaccines for individuals under the age of 65 without preexisting health conditions;
8. All information, including but not limited to scientific studies and expert analyses, that HHS consulted in making the decision to no longer recommend COVID-19 vaccines for children and pregnant women;
9. A list of all health conditions for which HHS will recommend that an individual receive a COVID-19 vaccine;
10. A detailed description of how HHS made the determination to change vaccine eligibility recommendations, including consideration of dissent and alternative opinions, and whether any experts, scientists, or staff were overruled and by whom;
11. A detailed description of and plan for how HHS plans to ensure that health insurers consistently cover COVID-19 vaccines for eligible populations without additional cost or burden for patients; and
12. A detailed description of and plan for how HHS will ensure that updated COVID-19 boosters continue to be made available on an annual basis if HHS begins requiring manufacturers to conduct placebo trials for each updated booster vaccine.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Stephen F. Lynch
Acting Ranking Member
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care and
Financial Services

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

The Honorable Glenn Grothman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services