



## Department of Health

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH  
Commissioner



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH  
*Acting Health Commissioner*

**DATE:** January 7, 2026

**TO:** Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Pharmacists, Prescribers

**FROM:** New York State Department of Health Division of Vaccine Excellence and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department)

### **HEALTH ADVISORY: New York State Immunization Practices Following Federal Changes to Childhood Vaccine Recommendations**

- The New York State Department of Health and the NYC Health Department reject all recent and unilateral changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization schedule.
- There are no changes to New York State and New York City school immunization requirements and related policies, vaccine access, insurance coverage, or the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).
- Vaccines are one of the most significant public health achievements; the safety and effectiveness of recommended vaccinations are well studied and regularly monitored.
- Vaccine policy decisions, including school immunization requirements, are established by states under their public health authority. New York's immunization policies are grounded in science and public health expertise and are designed to protect children, families, and communities from preventable diseases.
- On January 5th, 2026, the United States Health and Human Services released new immunization guidance that changed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's childhood vaccination recommendations.
- The federal government did not remove any vaccines from the schedule. However, some vaccines that had been recommended for all children have been reclassified as risk-based (e.g., vaccinate only if a patient has certain underlying conditions) or subject to shared clinical decision-making (i.e., decision to vaccinate is made by each patient individually, based on a discussion between provider and patient).
- **New York State providers should continue their prior immunization practices relying on evidence-based resources including the American Academy of Pediatrics' AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.**
- The New York State Department of Health and NYC Health Department remain committed to ensuring widespread access to vaccines following evidence-based immunization guidance.
- The New York State Department of Health and NYC Health Department will provide clear and timely guidance to health care providers and the public based on the federal government's new actions.