



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: January 9, 2026

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: West Coast Health Alliance Recommends American Academy of Pediatrics Vaccine Schedule

Key Messages

- On January 5, 2026, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) announced updates](#) to its Childhood Immunization Schedule; however, the [West Coast Health Alliance and the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) continue to recommend vaccination in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics' \(AAP\) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#).
- The changes were not based on new scientific evidence or safety concerns.
- The vaccines proposed for removal from the routine immunization schedule include those for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, invasive meningococcal infections (including ACWY and B), influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rotavirus. Although still recommended, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine schedule was reduced to a single dose for children.
- These recent CDC schedule changes did not follow established procedures for national vaccine policy updates and may increase the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases in children nationwide.

Situation

On January 5, 2026, the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) signed a [decision memorandum \(PDF\)](#) to revise the Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule and reduce the number of vaccinations routinely recommended for all U.S. children from 17 to 11. This decision did not follow established procedures for vaccine policy recommendations and threatens an increase in vaccine-preventable diseases in children nationwide. For Californians, the West Coast Health Alliance continues to recommend vaccination in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.

Background

The current [American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule \(PDF\)](#) is based on [well-established vaccine safety and effectiveness](#). AAP recommendations consider:

- When children are most vulnerable to diseases;
- When vaccines work best with children's immune systems;
- The safety of vaccinations being recommended;
- The risk of diseases in the United States;
- Our current access to health care and immunizations; and
- Cost effectiveness of implementing national recommendations for a particular vaccination.

In contrast, changes in the newly released recommended immunization schedule were not based on new vaccine safety and effectiveness data. Instead, the changes were based on a comparison of the number of routine

vaccinations recommended in the United States versus select other countries without accounting for differences in disease incidence, population risk, and access to universal, publicly funded healthcare. Reduced vaccination levels are likely to lead to an increase in vaccine preventable diseases and outbreaks with higher rates of severe outcomes, particularly among populations that already face barriers to accessing health care.

The CDC's changes are not expected to affect insurance coverage for vaccines for this plan year. All child and adolescent immunizations recommended as of December 31, 2025, will remain available and covered by public and private insurers; however, these changes create confusion and will put more children at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, the immunization requirements for childcare and school entry in California currently remain unchanged.

Actions Requested

1. **Educate and reassure patients** that recommended vaccines remain safe and effective, particularly for those at higher risk of severe disease.
2. **Recommend and administer** routine childhood vaccines following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended schedule in both timing and number of doses.

Resources

- [Fact Checked: U.S. Vaccine Recommendations are Appropriate for Children in the United States | AAP](#)
- [Public Health for All | CDPH](#)
- [West Coast Health Alliance | CDPH](#)
- [Bill Text - AB-144 Health - All Plan Letter | CA Dept of Managed Health Care](#)
- [CAHAN: Updates to Fall 2025 Respiratory Virus Vaccine Recommendations in California | CoSD](#)

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