



March 18, 2026

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya  
Acting Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya:

On January 5, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rolled out a new childhood immunization schedule. This schedule made significant changes to the existing, evidence-based immunization recommendations that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been publishing over the years with transparent input from experts and members of the public, including families who have been affected by vaccine-preventable diseases. The new schedule was not subject to any public process and was announced after a holiday break, without any opportunity for formal input. These changes were not voted on by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at a meeting held just weeks prior to this decision, nor has HHS published a robust scientific analysis to justify these changes.

In February 2026, you testified that the CDC would be tracking the impact of changes to this updated immunization schedule. You and other HHS leaders have also suggested that these changes would increase trust. However, new polling from [KFF](#) demonstrates that Americans' trust in federal health agencies is declining and that the majority of Americans aware of the new schedule believe it will have a negative impact on children's health.

Our organizations—the American Society for Meningitis Prevention, Families Fighting Flu, and Vaccinate Your Family—work together to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases. Our work is motivated by those who were not fortunate enough to be fully protected and whose families were irreversibly impacted by a vaccine-preventable disease—many of whom have joined us in our mission as patient advocates, to share their real-life experiences as a warning to other families. We are asking you to meet with our advocates, who are eager to discuss what these changes mean to families affected by these diseases, like influenza and meningitis—diseases for which the immunization recommendations have been changed. We have previously requested a similar meeting with Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., but did not receive a response to our request.

Below are just a few stories about families who have been affected by these dangerous diseases.

- [Joseph](#) was a healthy 5-year-old boy when he died from flu in 2009 during the H1N1 pandemic. As Joseph's mother, Serese always vaccinated her children on time, every time.

But unfortunately, the H1N1 monovalent vaccine was not available in her community until after Joseph died. Since 2009, his mother, Serese, has dedicated her career to ensuring other parents do not have to experience the devastating loss her family experienced.

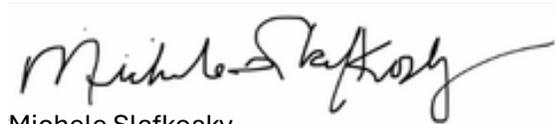
- [Brent](#) was an active 29-year-old “go getter” when he died from flu in 2019. After seven days of being sick, Brent went to urgent care because he was having trouble breathing. The urgent care discharged him with an antibiotic. Just four hours later, Brent died. Now, his father Jeb’s motto as a pediatrician is that he never wants to meet a parent with a child who ended up in the hospital with something that he could have prevented with a vaccination.
- [Francesca’s](#) college plans abruptly changed when she was diagnosed with meningitis at age 17. Her disease progressed rapidly, and she had to be air-lifted to a different hospital in critical condition—with just a 20% chance of survival. She likely would have received the vaccine at an upcoming physical before leaving for college. She was lucky to survive, but the rehabilitation journey was a years-long battle.

The policies that come out of the CDC have real effects on real people. The lack of trust in the CDC’s immunization schedule will have real effects on real people and real communities. As Acting CDC Director, we respectfully request that you meet with our advocates so that we can explain what these new recommendations will mean to our families, communities, and the people of the United States.

Sincerely,

*Amy Pisani*

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Chief Executive Officer, Vaccinate Your Family



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