



# Grandparents *For* Vaccines

A storytelling movement to protect every child's tomorrow.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grandparents for Vaccines Opposes Federal Rollback of Childhood Vaccine Recommendations

Grandparents for Vaccines, a national non-partisan advocacy group, criticized federal health officials on Monday for rolling back recommendations for several routine childhood vaccines, warning the move could put our grandchildren at risk and confuse families seeking medical guidance.

The changes remove long-standing recommendations for vaccines that protect against illnesses, including influenza, hepatitis A and B, RSV, rotavirus, and meningococcal disease.

“For generations, grandparents have seen firsthand what happens when children are not protected,” said Teri Mills, MS, RN Emeritus, vice president for media at Grandparents for Vaccines. “We remember polio wards, measles outbreaks, deaths from the meningococcal sepsis and meningitis. Suffering from diseases that vaccines later helped prevent.”

The group expressed particular concern about the removal of the meningococcal vaccine from the recommended schedule, noting that this germ once caused horrible suffering from agonizing meningitis and sepsis. “Choosing to drop this protection is tantamount to inviting the threat of this terrible disease into the lives of all our grandchildren,” Mills said.

Grandparents for Vaccines also rejected comparisons to European vaccine schedules, including Denmark's, saying differences in population size, classroom density, climate, and disease exposure make such comparisons inappropriate.

The organization emphasized that the vaccines are not banned and that parents can still choose to vaccinate their children.

“Our message to parents is simple,” Mills said. “The best schedule to follow for protecting our grandchildren is the immunization schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our children should be cared for by pediatricians and doctors who follow this guidance.”

Grandparents for Vaccines says now more than ever, the grandchildren of America rely on being protected by these doctors, whom they trust, not to follow the political winds.

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