

September 13, 2025

Comments to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

September 18-19, 2025 Meeting

Docket No. CDC-2025-0454

Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The [Gerontological Society of America](http://www.geron.org) (GSA) honors aging across the life course and is the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. The principal mission of the Society — and its 6,000+ members — is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision-makers, and the public. Our mission is to cultivate excellence in interdisciplinary aging research and education to advance innovations in practice and policy. We encourage interdisciplinary research collaboration and communication. We routinely convene stakeholders to discuss issues of importance and make recommendations to address the specific needs of older people.

Since the ACIP was formally established by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1964, it has played an increasingly integral role in our health care system. Stakeholders ranging from health care providers, public health organizations, federal agencies and insurance plans rely upon the apolitical, expert, evidence-based advice and recommendations ACIP provides on the use of immunizations among populations. These recommendations facilitate access and first dollar coverage for most Americans.

The ACIP carefully evaluates the scientific evidence but is unique in that it also takes a host of other important factors into consideration before making recommendations on who should (and should not) receive a particular vaccine, and at what intervals. Beyond vaccine safety and effectiveness, ACIP member experts also consider burden of disease, the cost of immunizing relative to disease burden as well as many other important considerations that go into their recommendations and guidance.

Vaccines are one of the greatest advances in human health in modern history, saving untold millions of lives here in the United States and worldwide. In addition to preventing a staggering human cost of disease, vaccines have resulted in trillions of dollars in direct and indirect societal savings (Baker, 2025). We remain committed to protecting the health of the American public from preventable infectious diseases through the use of extensively studied vaccines that are thoroughly evaluated for use among the American population.

Since 2010, GSA has been dedicated to bringing an interdisciplinary team together to increase reverence for the lifesaving value of vaccines. Our nation has experienced major increases in longevity since 1900 due to improvements in public health. We need to recall the importance of these life-saving vaccines and recognize the reverence with which they should be regarded.

Through our [National Adult Vaccination Program \(NAVP\)](#), GSA has collaborated with the multidisciplinary community of interest; produced informative summits, publications, and webinars; advocated for policies that increase access to vaccines; and taught champions to increase vaccination rates.

Now, we aim to **broaden the understanding of vaccines from the narrow focus of protecting one individual from one specific infectious disease to the far-reaching value that accrues to the individual's family, caregivers, coworkers, community, and society at large.** Through our initiative, [Concentric Value of Vaccination as We Age](#), we seek to illuminate:

- individual health benefits such as increased life expectancy, prevention of exacerbation of preexisting conditions, decreased risk of hospitalization;
- societal health benefits such as prevention of antibiotic resistance, protection for immunocompromised people unable to receive a vaccination;
- economic benefits such as productivity gains in the workplace, reduced impact on family, and family caregiving.

We urge the Committee to remain true to its charter to offer advice and guidance to the Director of the CDC on the use of vaccines and related agents to control vaccine-preventable diseases in the US civilian population. It is essential to conduct this process in a manner acknowledging data-driven, peer-reviewed science and upholding transparency in its deliberations, ultimately promoting and protecting the public's health.

For additional information, please contact Patricia D'Antonio, Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs at pdantonio@geron.org, or Jordan Miles, Director of Policy, at jmiles@geron.org.

Sincerely,



James C. Appleby, BSPharm, MPH, ScD (Hon)
Chief Executive Officer

References

Baker, M. (2025, June 5). *Vaccine Protection and Productivity: The Economic Value of Vaccines* - AAF. AAF. <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/vaccine-protection-and-productivity-the-economic-value-of-vaccines/>