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To: Wisconsin Vaccinators

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Communicable Disease

Routine Childhood Vaccine Schedule Recommendations

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Summary

- The federal government issued a modified childhood vaccine schedule on January 5, 2026. No new clinical data on either safety or effectiveness were presented that would justify these changes.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) stands by our current clinical guidance regarding vaccines in Wisconsin, and will not be making any changes to Wisconsin's school or child care recommendations.
- DHS recommends that clinicians refer to the [standard immunization schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) when consulting with parents and caregivers regarding childhood vaccines.
- DHS will continue to monitor national guidance and emerging evidence, and communicate any future updates to providers, health systems, and the public.

Background

Childhood immunization schedules issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have traditionally served to support efficient, evidence-informed clinical decision-making and consistency in medical practice. These schedules do not establish legal requirements or mandates, and states retain authority over clinical guidance and immunization requirements.

On January 5, 2026, the federal government modified the existing CDC childhood vaccine schedule, reclassifying vaccines that have been universally recommended to other categories, including reserving certain vaccines for high-risk patients, and recommending shared clinical decision-making for other vaccines.

The change in vaccine recommendations was based on a comparison of the U.S. vaccine schedule to that of other countries. However, this rationale fails to acknowledge underlying differences in access to health care, population, and disease risk specific to the U.S. In making these new recommendations, the federal government also did not adhere to longstanding, established procedures that previously ensured the rigorous and transparent review of data.

Recommendations for Wisconsin Clinicians

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to recommend that children complete the full vaccine series according to the standard immunization schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Because no new clinical data on either safety or effectiveness have been presented publicly to justify any changes to the childhood vaccine schedule, DHS does not recommend any changes to clinical practice based on the federal announcement on January 5, 2026. Wisconsin clinicians are urged to refer to the standard immunization schedule published by the AAP when consulting with parents and caregivers regarding childhood vaccines.

DHS will continue to monitor national guidance and emerging evidence, and communicate any future updates to providers, health systems, and the public.

Resources

- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services Recommended Vaccination Schedule webpage](#)
- [AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger](#)