

Vaccine Access Update

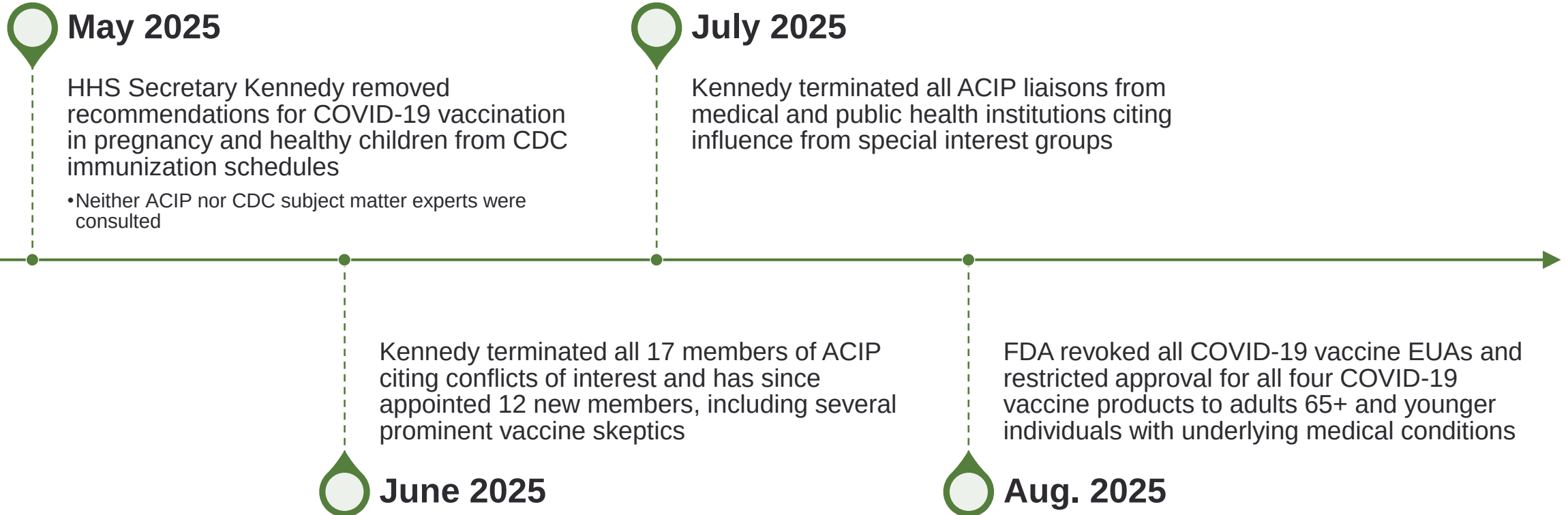
House Committee on Health Care

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What is happening?

Federal action and inaction have caused significant confusion regarding vaccine policy



The results

Restricted access to the COVID-19 vaccine

- Pharmacies required prescriptions or attestation of underlying medical conditions for the updated COVID-19 vaccine due to the narrow FDA approval language and absence of 2025-26 ACIP recommendations
- Providers and pharmacies reluctant to stock the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine

Provider confusion

Consumer confusion

Oregon responds: The West Coast Health Alliance

- Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii have issued evidence-based immunization [recommendations](#) **informed by respected, national medical organizations**
- Goals
 - Provide evidence-based vaccine recommendations
 - Ensure continued access to vaccines at low or no cost

Consensus WCHA 2025-26 Respiratory Season Immunization Recommendations

	COVID-19 vaccine	Influenza vaccine	RSV immunization
Children	• All 6-23 months • All 2-17 years with risk factors • All with close contact with others with risk factors • All who choose protection	• All ≥ 6 months	• All < 8 months¹ • All 8-19 months with risk factors¹
Pregnancy	• All planning, pregnant, postpartum, and lactating	• All planning, pregnant, postpartum, and lactating	• 32-36 weeks gestational age¹
Adults	• All ≥ 65 years • All 18-64 years with risk factors • All with close contact with others with risk factors • All who choose protection	• All ≥ 18 years	• All ≥ 75 years • All 50-74 years with risk factors

¹Either immunization with nirsevimab/clesrovimab or maternal RSV vaccination is indicated to protect infants from severe RSV infection.

Oregon responds: Multi-agency effort

OHA manages response efforts and coordinates with:

- Department of Consumer and Business Services
- Board of Pharmacy
- State Board of Nursing
- Oregon Medical Board

Agency actions

- Policy changes to make WCHA-recommended vaccines easily accessible, covered by insurance
- Communications through multiple channels to boost provider and consumer confidence

COVID-19 vaccine guidance in Oregon



Everyone ages 6 months and older can receive the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine.

No prescription needed.



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ACIP Meeting Updates

The September 18-19 ACIP meeting included MMRV, hepatitis B, and COVID-19 vaccine votes

- **MMRV:** adopted recommendation against MMRV vaccine in children under 4 due to risk of febrile seizure and **voted for adoption of resolution to VFC**
 - **Impact:** VFC theoretically will no longer cover MMRV in children under 4, however, this level of detail is not typically provided to VFC; uncertain if coverage will change at this time
N.B. MMRV is used in 15% of first doses; separate MMR and varicella vaccines are available
- **Hepatitis B:** vote has been tabled; anticipate next vote on hepatitis B vaccine will include more restrictive language regarding age of first dose (> 2, 6 months, or even 12 years)
 - **Impact:** coverage will not change at this time
- **COVID-19: adopted three recommendations:** (1) for additional and controversial language to be added to VIS; (2) that informed consent should occur prior to vaccination; and (3) that COVID-19 vaccines be recommended in alignment with FDA approval (65 and older, 6 months – 64 years risk-based)
 - **Impacts:** (1) biased and inaccurate language may reduce vaccine uptake; (2) no impact, this is standard of care; (3) coverage will not change at this time

What's next?

- Continue monitoring federal action on vaccines
 - Await CDC action on September 18-19 ACIP votes
 - The next ACIP meeting is scheduled for October 22-23
 - Explore long-term policy options

Thank you

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Acronyms

ACIP – Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

EUA – Emergency Use Authorization

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

MMRV – Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella vaccine

RSV – Respiratory Syncytial Virus

VFC – Vaccines for Children program

WCHA – West Coast Health Alliance