

My name is Avraham Y. Seff. I have prepared this concise document for consideration by the ACIP panel within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is my sincere hope that the panel will adopt these values—or any part of it they find helpful.

I am not a government employee and do not represent the CDC in any capacity. However, I have drafted language that the committee is welcome to use or adapt as it sees fit.

Anyone wishing to contact me regarding this matter may reach me at ay32@seff.me.

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ACIP Statement on the Purpose and Appropriate Use of Its Recommendations

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issues vaccine recommendations to support evidence-based decision-making in public health and clinical care. These recommendations are developed through rigorous analysis of scientific data and expert consensus, and are intended to inform—not compel—individual and institutional health choices.

ACIP recommendations are **non-binding** and do not carry the force of law. ACIP does not possess legislative, judicial, or enforcement authority. The Committee affirms that its recommendations are intended solely to guide medical and public health practice—not to serve as automatic determinations in legal, custodial, employment, or educational contexts.

Specifically, ACIP’s guidance is not intended to be used as:

- The basis for terminating **parental rights** or **denying custody or visitation**;
- Justification for **child protective investigations**, absent other legitimate concerns;
- Grounds to **exclude a child from school** or essential services;
- Criteria for **employment decisions**, professional discipline, or credentialing.

Any use of ACIP recommendations outside their intended medical and public health context constitutes a misuse of this guidance, misrepresents its purpose, and can result in real and lasting harm—particularly to families and children.

The Committee reaffirms the importance of:

- Respecting **informed consent** and **parental discretion**;
- Acknowledging legitimate **medical contraindications** and personal risk factors;
- Preserving **clinical judgment** and space for professional disagreement;
- Upholding **autonomy in medical decision-making** for patients and families.

ACIP recommendations are designed to support—not override—the nuanced decisions made collaboratively between patients, parents, and healthcare providers. They are not mandates, and they should not be treated as such in legal, educational, or employment settings.

ACIP remains committed to advancing public health while honoring the ethical, personal, and familial dimensions of medical care.