

Colorado Experts, Reacting to Federal Decision, Highlight the Importance of Hepatitis B Vaccine to Protect Newborns

Colorado Chooses Vaccines | December 5, 2025

DENVER, CO - Today, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on vaccine recommendations, revised the long-standing universal hepatitis B birth dose recommendation.

Colorado Chooses Vaccines is deeply troubled by this decision and by the committee's break from ACIP's long history of basing its recommendations on rigorous evidence review and open, transparent debate among experts. What we witnessed today was not that, and Colorado parents, children, and families deserve better.

Colorado Chooses Vaccines is clarifying what this change means for families, health care providers, and hospitals in Colorado.

- This shift does **not** reflect new evidence on vaccine safety or effectiveness. Hepatitis B vaccines remain among the most rigorously studied childhood vaccines, with decades of global evidence demonstrating excellent safety and the ability to prevent severe, lifelong liver disease and cancer.
- Hepatitis B still poses a real risk in the United States and Colorado. Nearly two million Americans are living with chronic infection, and many do not know it. Infants are at the highest risk, with up to 90% of those infected at birth developing chronic disease, compared with fewer than 5% of infected adults.
- The universal birth dose has been a crucial recommendation because it protects infants from maternal infection and from unrecognized household exposures, which historically caused thousands of infections even when mothers tested negative.
- For the overwhelming majority of Colorado parents who choose to vaccinate at birth, the hepatitis B birth dose must remain readily available so infants continue to receive proven, timely protection.

Colorado Chooses Vaccines and the health leaders we represent want to ensure that families receive clear, evidence-based information about the meeting and its implications.

No new concerns have been found in any of the U.S. systems that keep watch on vaccine safety, and routine vaccines remain safe, effective, and essential to preventing childhood illness, hospitalization, and long-term complications.

Colorado Chooses Vaccines is a broad, statewide coalition of health providers, public health leaders, and community organizations working together to protect vaccine access and trust.

Colorado Chooses Vaccines continues to support a universal newborn hepatitis B vaccination strategy because it is equitable, evidence-based, and protective for every infant.

"The ACIP decision on the birth dose recommendation was not grounded in a rigorous evidence review, and does not change the science: this is a safe vaccine and prevents chronic liver disease

and cancer. At this time of chaotic federal decisions and speculation intended to sow fear, we remain steadfast in providing clear, accurate guidance rooted in high-quality evidence,” said Dr. David Higgins, a pediatrician with the coalition. “Our priority remains ensuring that Colorado parents, clinicians, and communities have access to reliable, transparent information that supports confident decision-making and protects the health of all Coloradans.”

The Colorado Chooses Vaccines coalition is financially supported by Rose Community Foundation’s [Colorado Vaccine Access Fund](#). To learn more or donate in support of this work, please visit www.covaccineaccessfund.org.

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