

Docket No. CDC-2025-0017

The American College Health Association (ACHA) extends its gratitude to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for considering written comments during its scheduled meeting on April 15, 2025. We commend the committee’s work, continuation of regularly scheduled yearly meetings, and the use of the latest available peer-reviewed science.

The health and safety of college students and campus communities is a shared priority of public health officials. By upholding evidence-based public health measures and proven immunization practices, ACIP can help ensure that colleges, along with their local communities, remain safe, accessible, and resilient in the face of public health challenges. As long-time liaison members of ACIP, we look forward to continuing meaningful utilization of our expertise and ongoing collaboration in scientific rigor and discovery of the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

As higher education health experts, we endorse vaccines to protect the health of our nation’s college students and our campus communities.ⁱ Vaccines keep students healthy and thus engaged and on track in their academic studies—whether that’s at a university, a community college, or a trade school. Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases —such as measles, mumps, meningitis, influenza, varicella, and pertussis — have been mitigated for decades by strategies based primarily on the proactive deployment and administration of vaccines. ACHA strongly encourages ACIP to continue vaccine approval and recommendations informed by medical expertise and research.

ACHA encourages ACIP to continue discussions and promote education on vaccine efficacy, effectiveness, and protection. Ongoing vaccination discussions and approval should create a safe space for vaccine education and inquiry with continued respect for educational institutions that allow for approved exemptions. For this reason, we highly encourage ACIP to continue holding its yearly meetings and approving immunization practices based on scientific evidence. The approval of safe vaccines and vaccine practices should continue to be the policy bulwark against the spread of communicable diseases.

Should members of ACIP or the CDC desire data or resources on higher education health, please do not hesitate to contact ACHA for assistance. As an example, ACHA’s Spring 2024 National College Health Assessment can illuminate college student vaccination patterns. As a highlight for the committee, nearly 51% of college students reported completing their human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series.ⁱⁱ This valuable insight underscores ACHA’s capacity to support ACIP and CDC efforts with timely, relevant data from the college population. ACIP and CDC have previously conducted, reviewed, and considered vaccine safety and efficacy data, and we look forward to continuing participation in the implementation and review of such studies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written comment for consideration.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Since 1920, ACHA has been the undisputed expert on college student health and well-being. Through advocacy, research, and education, ACHA stands at the forefront of issues impacting the health and well-being of our college students. ACHA represents:

- Over 900 institutions of higher learning throughout the United States, its territories, and Canada, including four-year public and private universities, minority-serving institutions, faith-based institutions, community colleges, and trade schools.

- Over 12,000 health and well-being professionals in higher education, including physicians, physician assistants, administrators, nurse practitioners, nurse directors, mental health professionals, health educators, dietitians and nutritionists, pharmacists, and faculty.
- Sustaining members, such as industry partners and nonprofit organizations, who support the mission and work of ACHA.

ⁱ ACHA 2014 statement on vaccine use (<https://www.acha.org/resource/vaccine-use-to-promote-health-and-prevent-disease/>)

ⁱⁱ American College Health Association. American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment III: Reference Group Executive Summary Spring 2024. Silver Spring, MD: American College Health Association; 2024.