



**Department  
of Health**

**JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH  
*Acting Health Commissioner*

July 18, 2025

Dear Colleague,

Following the June 25–26 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the New York State Department of Health and the New York City Health Department reaffirm our commitment to science-based immunization policy and recommendations.

While ACIP has not taken actions that significantly change current vaccine recommendations, the meeting raised concerns that future decision-making processes could be compromised, and that more consequential vaccine recommendations that do not follow the science may be forthcoming. We are closely monitoring developments and will address any future changes as appropriate to ensure evidence-based immunization policy remains the standard in New York.

Of note, ACIP voted against the use of thimerosal-containing influenza vaccines, an outdated issue that has little real-world impact. The thimerosal presentation did not follow the typical Evidence-to-Recommendation framework. Only 4% of the 2024–25 influenza vaccine supply in the United States contains thimerosal, and thimerosal-free options are widely available. Numerous studies have demonstrated no evidence of harm from thimerosal in vaccines. Additional information about thimerosal for you and your patients is available from the [New York State Department of Health](#) and the [Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#).

Updated data presented at the meeting continue to show strong evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and influenza immunizations, including the new long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody (clesrovimab). New York State and New York City guidance for providers regarding COVID-19, RSV, and influenza immunizations will follow later this summer.

As always, we remain committed to working with national partners and other jurisdictions to ensure safe, effective, and accessible vaccines for all New Yorkers. We recognize how challenging it can be to counter vaccine hesitancy, and your role in providing trusted, evidence-based information has never been more important. Thank you for your continued work to protect New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

James V. McDonald, M.D., M.P.H.  
New York State Health Commissioner

Michelle Morse, M.D., M.P.H.  
New York City Health Commissioner