

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For Immediate Release: Friday, December 5, 2025**

**Contact:** Anne Sedlack ([asedlack@mainephysicians.org](mailto:asedlack@mainephysicians.org))

### **STATEMENT: Healthcare Clinicians Condemn Decision by Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to Rescind Recommendation for Universal Hepatitis B Birth Dose**

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Medical Association is joined by the Maine Academy of Family Physicians, Maine Academy of Physician Associates, Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association, Maine Osteopathic Association and Maine Section, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists to strongly oppose the decision by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to end the decades-long recommendation that all newborns be immunized at birth against hepatitis B. Since its adoption in 1991, the birth-dose strategy has contributed significantly to a dramatic reduction in hepatitis B infections among children. This policy has been foundational in protecting children from a severe and potentially life-long liver infection.

"As frontline clinicians, we understand the complexity of ensuring every newborn is protected. Evidence-based universal schedules eliminate ambiguity, reduce missed doses, and promote equitable care for all patients," stated Brian Youth, MD, President of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "The birth dose of HepB is a critical safeguard against transmission from the birthing parent to the infant, underscoring the importance of this long-standing recommendation. Replacing a clear, evidence-driven standard with a patchwork approach would place vulnerable infants at risk and increase the likelihood of serious liver disease".

Lori M. Towne, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC and President of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association, stated, "The vote by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine advisors to rollback this universal recommendation is another example of the erosion of public health policy in the U. S. The decision made lacks scientific data or evidence to support the change in policy or the proposed delay of initial age of vaccination. This only adds to the growing confusion and lack of confidence in public health initiatives for parents. This will leave infants vulnerable during a critical period of their lives and contribute to the increased incidence of vaccine-preventable illnesses."

"Maine's commitment to equitable healthcare means ensuring every baby, regardless of geography, insurance, or circumstance, receives the same proven protections at birth. Moving away from universal vaccination widens gaps for rural families and those already facing barriers to care. This is a step backward for fairness, access, and the health of Maine's

youngest residents.” Kathryn Brandt, DO, MS.MEdL, President of Maine Osteopathic Association

Jim Jarvis, MD, President of the Maine Medical Association, stated, “Once again, this administration has put fear-mongering and speculation over the health and well-being of our children. If followed, this recommendation will risk harming children unnecessarily. The Hepatitis B vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective, and has been protecting children from this untreatable, chronic, and for some, deadly disease for decades.”

Our Associations strongly reaffirm our commitment to evidence-based immunization practices that protect the health of children and the public. And we are prepared to work together to educate families about the importance of the birth dose of Hepatitis B for all Maine children.

###



**Maine Medical  
Association**

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in

Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people.



The Maine Academy of Family Physicians is a professional medical society dedicated to maintaining high standards of family medicine, representing over 700 family physicians, residents, and medical students across the state of Maine.



The Maine Academy of Physician Associates was incorporated on April 1, 1977, as a nonprofit organization. MEAPA is representative of the PAs employed within the State of Maine, and its primary objective is to enhance quality medical care to the people of Maine through a

process of continuing medical education to the membership, other health care workers, and the general public. As a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Associates, MEAPA meets all provisions of the AAPA's bylaws and policies and upholds the principles, purposes, and philosophy for which the AAPA was founded.



Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics' mission is to improve the lives of children and adolescents in Maine. We believe all children deserve access to high quality emotional, physical, and mental health; and we support pediatricians so they can provide the best care for children in their offices and communities. Our vision is to be the leading authority, advocate, and voice for the health of Maine's children and for the profession of pediatrics.



The Maine Nurse Practitioner Association is the professional organization for nurse practitioners who constitute the largest group among Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and number about 3,170

in Maine.



The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure

the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The Maine Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing physicians and partners in Maine dedicated to advancing the health of all those in need of obstetric and gynecologic care.