

MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATEMENT: Health Care Community Rejects Vaccine Misinformation and Reaffirms Evidence on Vaccine Safety

AUGUSTA – This week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its website with misinformation about vaccines and autism.

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 Public Health Association to affirm: vaccines do not cause autism. This conclusion is supported by decades of rigorous research involving millions of children across multiple countries.

“Misinformation about vaccines is not harmless—it has real consequences,” said Maine Medical Association President James Jarvis, MD. “We cannot allow false claims to jeopardize the progress Maine has made in safeguarding children’s health.”

Kathleen Moneghan, DHA, MPAS, PA-C, President, Maine Academy of Physician Associates, noted that “Vaccines are one of the most effective and well-studied tools for preventing infectious diseases. Widespread vaccination not only protects individuals but also helps preserve Maine communities.”

Rebecca Boulos, Executive Director of the Maine Public Health Association, said, “Thanks to medical advances like safe and effective vaccines, people are living longer than ever before. Diseases that used to kill children regularly, like smallpox, are a thing of the past. Yet, the latest misinformation about vaccines coming from the U.S. CDC threatens that progress, and will likely lead to unnecessary suffering, and even death.”

President Lori Towne, MSN, FNP-BC, emphasized that “The Maine Nurse Practitioner Association reaffirms our commitment to evidence-based practice care and public health. Decades of rigorous research have confirmed that vaccines do not cause autism. Claims to the contrary are not supported by science and undermine public confidence in life-saving immunizations.”

We are all deeply concerned that federal health agencies are now promoting long-disproven claims that undermine public confidence in lifesaving immunizations. Maine has worked

hard to protect our children through evidence-based vaccine policies. We cannot allow misinformation under the guise of the integrity of the US CDC to reverse this progress.

Vaccines rank among medicine's greatest achievements. We urge the U.S. CDC to return to its mission of promoting sound science that protects all Americans' health.

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**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 Public Health Association is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 900 individual members and 70 organizations across the state. As a statewide nonprofit association, we advocate, act, and advise on critical public health challenges, aiming to improve the policies, systems, and environments that underlie health inequities – but which also have potential to improve health outcomes for all people in Maine. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine's communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.