

Protecting Vaccine Access and Public Trust: What Needs to Happen Now

This factsheet highlights key actions to protect vaccine access, build public trust and support a strong public health system. Use it to inform your advocacy, share with partners and urge decisionmakers to act now.

Fully Fund CDC, HRSA, FDA and NIH

These agencies keep vaccines safe, watch for side effects and fund important research. Their work made it possible to quickly create and give out safe COVID-19 vaccines.

ACTION NEEDED Congress must reject the proposed more than 40% cuts to NIH and CDC in the FY2026 budget and stop the plan to eliminate HRSA. These cuts would shut down labs, end prevention programs and cause job losses. [Contact your members of Congress.](#)

Restore Pandemic-Era Public Health Funding

A cut of \$11.4 billion removed emergency COVID-19 support that helped local labs, data systems and health jobs.

ACTION NEEDED Reverse these cuts so health departments can keep workers and tools needed to fight today's and future outbreaks.

Stop Laws and Policies that Undermine Vaccination Science

Some state bills are weakening school vaccine requirements, putting communities at risk. National actions are also adding to the problem — like the CDC's recent move to recommend against routine COVID-19 vaccines for healthy children without going through normal review. RFK Jr.'s push for these changes outside the usual process is dangerous.

ACTION NEEDED Work with lawmakers from both parties to stop bills that weaken vaccine requirements. Speak out against unsafe federal decisions.

Recommit to Global Vaccine Equity

U.S. cuts to programs like Gavi, USAID and the WHO make it easier for diseases to spread overseas — and they can reach the U.S. in just 36 hours.

ACTION NEEDED Bring back U.S. support for global vaccine efforts to help stop preventable outbreaks.

Correct Misinformation at the Top

False claims from national leaders, including the Secretary of Health and Human Services, are spreading confusion and vaccine fear as measles cases grow. This could stop people from getting vaccinated and make future outbreaks worse.

ACTION NEEDED Speak up to correct false claims. Work with trusted medical groups — like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians — to share clear and correct information about vaccine safety.

See full resources from APHA's town hall, "Navigating the Vaccine Debate," and download factsheets on safety, policy and childhood vaccines at: apha.org/topics-and-issues/vaccines

