



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

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**STATEMENT FROM ACTING NYC HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. MICHELLE
MORSE ON RFK JR.'S REVISED CHILDHOOD VACCINE SCHEDULE**

NEW YORK — Today, NYC Health Department Acting Commissioner Dr. Michelle Morse issued the following statement in response to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) under Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s unprecedented overhaul of the childhood vaccination schedule to recommend fewer shots for children:

“RFK Jr.’s revised childhood vaccination schedule will have deadly consequences.

Yesterday's announcement weakening the childhood vaccination schedule puts the health and well-being of children and their families at risk.

The federal administration justified its decision as an effort to mirror countries that recommend fewer childhood vaccinations, not because new scientific evidence was offered. But in fact, nations including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, and Spain recommend childhood vaccination schedules similar to the one the U.S. was using.

The CDC itself estimates that the vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2023 will prevent 508 million illnesses, help avoid more than 1.1 million deaths, and save nearly \$2.7 trillion in societal costs. Yet through RFK Jr.’s changes, people will suffer inevitable consequences like preventable illness and disabilities, hospitalizations, and even death.

The NYC Health Department recommends that children continue to receive all vaccines previously recommended by the CDC based on rigorous review and evidence. Parents and caregivers should speak to their pediatrician if they have questions about vaccination recommendations. Health care providers in New York City should continue to follow the existing recommendations.

As a public servant and medical professional, I will not stay silent. The NYC Health Department remains committed to our mission of protecting the health and safety of all New Yorkers.”

For more information, visit the NYC Health Department [Vaccine-Preventable Childhood Diseases](#) page.

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