



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2026

**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. ALISTER F. MARTIN ON
PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATED TO CHILDHOOD VACCINATION**

NEW YORK — New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Alister F. Martin issued the following statement on the president’s executive order related to childhood vaccination:

“The president’s executive order on childhood vaccination is based in politics and conspiracy theories, not science or medical expertise. Fortunately, vaccination recommendations are not set by the president, nor should they be. Vaccines are proven to save lives and prevent illness. This executive order will only cause confusion and undermine confidence in vaccines.

Cities and states can set their own recommendations and requirements, and many, including New York City, have moved away from the federal government’s recommendations as they’ve become politicized and unscientific. In New York, immunization policy is based on facts, not myths, and that isn’t changing.

Today, the New York City and New York state health departments jointly endorsed the 2026 Maternal Immunization Schedule issued by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which recommends routine vaccination during pregnancy to protect pregnant people and infants from serious illness, including RSV, COVID-19, and the flu. Earlier this year, we endorsed the 2026 childhood and adolescent immunization schedules issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics. These evidence-based schedules recommend routine immunization for protection against 18 preventable diseases including RSV, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rotavirus, influenza, and meningococcal disease.

We will continue to follow the science and recommend vaccinations that are effective at preventing illnesses, and safe for families and children. It is normal to have questions about vaccines and we encourage New York City families to seek information from their child’s doctor or visit nyc.gov/AskQuestions.”

###

Media Contact: pressoffice@health.nyc.gov