



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 19, 2026**

**CONTACT: Jen Johns | 216-532-4505, [jjohns@amcno.org](mailto:jjohns@amcno.org)**

### **AMCNO Advises Public to Follow Childhood Vaccine Schedule as Usual, Ignore New HHS Recommendations**

CLEVELAND, OH – The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), a 201-year-old leading organization in physician advocacy, representing over 7,500 physicians, is bringing to the public’s attention the need to continue the previously recommended childhood vaccination schedule, warning against recent changes made to the schedule by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., based on the spurious argument that the USA would simply follow the lead of Denmark.

Denmark has universal free healthcare, a small and comparatively healthy population, generous medical leave policies and extremely high compliance with public health guidelines. They also have accepted approximately twice our rate of hospitalizations for respiratory syncytial virus in older people and young children. The previous work of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has been scientifically shaped to fit American populations and healthcare systems.

Childhood vaccines have been shown, not only, to have saved millions of lives, but to have saved hundreds of thousands from paralysis, physical and mental disabilities. They have spared trillions of dollars in health care costs. They have been studied extensively and scientifically. There is no question that vaccines are the greatest public health invention of our time. They have allowed us to diminish and, in some cases, eradicate the threat of fatal infectious diseases. In the United States there has been a 99% decrease in incidence for the nine diseases for which childhood vaccines have been recommended for decades.

“Vaccines not only protect the immunized but can also reduce disease among unimmunized individuals in the community through ‘indirect effects’ or ‘herd protection.’ In the last 50 years alone, vaccines have helped to nearly wipe out measles, diphtheria, and

polio. Mr. Kennedy's known opposition to routine childhood vaccinations is a threat to the public's health and opens the door for these illnesses to recur in our children," said Kristin Englund, MD, an infectious disease physician and past president of the AMCNO.

Sec. Kennedy's many demonstrably false and misleading statements attempt to undermine the public's confidence in American medical science, and in the professionals and institutions, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that make American medicine preeminent in the world. We join the many medical societies across the country who have called for his resignation to protect the public's health.

The Academy is proud of our 202-year history in protecting the public health in Cleveland & Northern Ohio and we will continue to educate the public about the importance of following sound medical advice, including medically appropriate vaccination to prevent illness.

## **ABOUT AMCNO**

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) is a nonprofit 501(c)6 professional organization with the mission of supporting physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promoting the practice of the highest quality of medicine. Founded in 1824, AMCNO has a long history of physician advocacy as the oldest professional organization in Ohio.

###