



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMCNO Advises Public to Follow Vaccine Schedule as Usual, Warns of Politicization of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Calls on RFK Jr. to Resign

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 routine vaccinations this flu season, warning against following the unscientific advice of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.. Kennedy is a well-known anti-vaccine and anti-science advocate and has touted conspiracy theories and lies about vaccines (including that childhood immunizations cause autism), the pasteurization of milk, and fluoride in water.

During his confirmation hearings Secretary Kennedy assured members of the U.S. Senate that he would not interfere with vaccines, but he has already begun to do so and has fired any official who will not follow his recommendations, which are not backed by reputable science.

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. There is also no question that routine childhood immunizations have helped save lives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccines annually prevent almost 6 million deaths worldwide. 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.

We are concerned with Sec. Kennedy’s attempts 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 AMCNO strongly encourages the public to follow the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [vaccine schedule](#) for persons under age 18, and the American College of Physicians (ACP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) [vaccine schedule](#) for persons over the age of 18.

The Academy is proud of our 200-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.

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