



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
September 24, 2025**

The State Board of Medicine (Board) writes in strong support of the issuance of guidance on immunizations by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) (available here: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/immunizations/general-immunization-guidance>). The Board recognizes that immunizations are essential to protecting both individual and public health, and we commend DOH for its leadership in providing clear, evidence-based direction to board-regulated practitioners and the public.

The federal government, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), develops and updates recommended immunization schedules. However, in Pennsylvania, DOH plays the critical role of setting immunization requirements and issuing guidance to ensure the effective use of vaccines across the Commonwealth. The Board strongly supports the leadership of DOH in this area.

The Board affirms that medical doctors and other Board-regulated practitioners should be knowledgeable in established, evidence-based immunization schedules and practices, including those issued and recommended by DOH. DOH's recent guidance recommends that Pennsylvanians follow immunization recommendations issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). These and other trusted professional organizations can serve as a vital resource for medical professionals seeking evidence-based guidance on vaccines and other topics. Practitioners should consider these schedules, along with standard references, scientific literature, and professional judgment, when making clinical decisions for individual patients. Clear and consistent guidance from DOH helps ensure that medical practice is aligned, transparent, and trusted throughout the Commonwealth.

When evaluating matters involving standards of care, the Board considers evidence-based science and expert review. Alleged violations of the standard of care are reviewed individually, with full attention to the facts and circumstances of each case. In this respect, the immunization guidance provided by DOH is an important resource to both practitioners and the Board in ensuring safe and effective patient care.

The Board appreciates the ongoing efforts of DOH to promote vaccinations and patient choice, and to provide practitioners with clear guidance. Together, with clear communication and coordinated action, we can best protect the health of Pennsylvanians.

Respectfully,

The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald M. Yealy', written over the text 'The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine'.

Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Chair