



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ON RECENT FEDERAL VACCINE GUIDANCE

JACKSON, MS, August 18, 2026 — The Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA) reaffirms its commitment to evidence-based science, proven pediatric clinical guidelines, and the health and safety of Mississippi's children following recent [federal executive actions](#) proposing changes to the established national childhood immunization schedule.

Mississippi's vaccination policies should continue to be guided by rigorous scientific evidence and the recommendations of qualified public health and medical experts. We are concerned that separating proven combination vaccines, spreading immunizations across additional visits, and narrowing the vaccines routinely recommended for children could create confusion, increase barriers to care, and leave more children vulnerable to preventable disease. In a state already facing significant health disparities and limited access to care in many communities, a change to childhood vaccine recommendations will add an unnecessary layer of confusion to an already tenuous health care system. The Mississippi Public Health Association supports transparent, evidence-based decision-making and clear communication that equips parents to protect their children, their families, and their communities.

Mississippi has historically led the nation in childhood vaccination rates, protecting thousands of children from preventable diseases like measles, mumps, rubella, and polio. MPHA strongly urges Mississippi parents, caregivers, and families to consult directly with their local pediatricians, family physicians, and public health officers when making decisions about their children's healthcare.

MPHA remains dedicated to advocating for sound public health policy, supporting Mississippi's healthcare workforce, and protecting the health and well-being of all Mississippians.

About the Mississippi Public Health Association

Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA) is an affiliated association of the American Public Health Association (APHA). We have collaborated with APHA to grow stronger as organizations, to share expertise, influence, and resources, and to advocate for common priorities at the local, state and federal levels. APHA champions optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. With

our broad-based member community and 150-year perspective, APHA influence federal policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.

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