New Resources to Support Immunization for Life Long Health

Quality Corner Call
October 1, 2026

HEALTHWORKS
KANSAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Kansas
Department of Health and Environment

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Objectives

1. Describe the major changes in federal vaccine recommendations and the CDC/ACIP process since 2025.
2. Explain Kansas/KDHE's response and current approach to vaccine guidance.
3. Apply a practice framework for discussing changing or conflicting vaccine recommendations with patients and the public.

Core idea Separate the science, the federal policy process, Kansas guidance, and the individual clinical conversation.

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Why this is unusually confusing

Multiple Decision Makers

The President and HHS can set policy direction. CDC publishes clinical guidance. ACIP traditionally develops vaccine-use recommendations. Courts and states can affect implementation.

The process changed

Since 2025, federal vaccine policy has included direct HHS actions, replacement of ACIP membership, new recommendation categories, litigation and executive action.

States still matter

Federal recommendations influence practice, coverage and messaging, but states retain important authority over school requirements and state clinical/public-health guidance.

Sources: CDC ACIP; HHS/CDC Jan. 5, 2026; Public Health On Call, 2025–2026.

How vaccine recommendations traditionally worked

FDA Licensure / Authorization → **ACIP** Evidence Review + Vote → **CDC Director** Adopts recommendation → **Clinical Schedule** Implementation + Coverage

ACIP's stated framework uses GRADE and Evidence-to-Recommendations methods to assess benefits, harms, values, feasibility, equity and other factors.

Source: CDC, Evidence-Based Recommendations for ACIP; CDC, ACIP Recommendations.

2025–2026: the federal process changes

- **May – Jun 2025** HHS changed COVID guidance for healthy children/pregnancy; all 17 ACIP members were dismissed and a new panel was appointed.
- **Jan. 5, 2026** CDC, following a presidential memorandum, reorganized the childhood schedule into routine, high-risk, and shared clinical decision-making categories.
- **Jan. 16, 2026** KDHE issues Kansas vaccine guidance: Kansas does not anticipate changing its clinical guidance; clinicians are directed to use professional judgment and AAP/AAFP schedules.
- **Mar – Apr 2026** A federal judge halted key HHS changes affecting the childhood schedule and ACIP; litigation created additional uncertainty.
- **Aug. 10, 2026** A presidential executive order directed a renewed three-tier childhood framework and work toward separate MMR products/visits.
- **September 2026** For respiratory vaccines, professional societies issued 2026–27 guidance while CDC carried forward prior influenza guidance amid legal uncertainty.

Sources: Public Health On Call (2025–2026); HHS/CDC; CDC Sept. 1, 2026.

January 2026: the childhood schedule was restructured

Recommended for all children

The federal framework retained routine recommendations for 11 diseases, including MMR, polio, DTaP-related diseases, Hib, pneumococcal disease, HPV and varicella.

Certain high-risk groups

Some immunizations moved from universal routine use toward risk-based recommendations.

Shared clinical decision-making

Other vaccines were placed in an individualized clinician–patient/parent decision category rather than a universal default.

Important: a change in recommendation category is not, by itself, evidence that a vaccine became unsafe or ineffective.

Sources: HHS/CDC, Jan. 5, 2026; HHS Childhood Immunization Schedule; Public Health On Call, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3, 2026.

ACIP changed too — not just the schedule

June 2025 HHS dismissed all sitting ACIP members and subsequently appointed a new panel.

Why ACIP matters

- ACIP historically provides an expert, public, evidence-review process for vaccine-use recommendations.
- Its votes can affect CDC guidance, clinical practice, Vaccines for Children policy and insurance coverage pathways.
- Changes in membership and process therefore affect not only the final recommendation, but also confidence in how the recommendation was developed.

Communication implication: explain the process change without asking patients to become experts in federal governance.

Source: Public Health On Call, "Changes to the CDC's Vaccine Advisory Committee," Jul. 17, 2025; CDC ACIP.

August 2026: the President added another layer

Policy direction

Executive Order 14420 directed the federal government toward the three-category childhood framework and additional implementation work.

MMR

The order called for work toward separate measles, mumps, and rubella products and where feasible, separate visits.

What it did not do instantly

It did not itself rewrite every state school-entry rule, create new single-antigen products overnight, or eliminate access to currently available vaccines.

Sources: Executive Order 14420 (Aug. 10, 2026); Public Health On Call, Aug. 14, 2026; Johns Hopkins Q&A, Aug. 18, 2026.

Then the courts added uncertainty

A federal court halted key 2026 HHS changes to the childhood schedule and ACIP process.

Operational lesson

Do not treat a headline as the final clinical rule. Verify the current federal guidance, current Kansas guidance, and any applicable legal or program requirements before changing standing orders or public messaging.

The legal landscape can change faster than printed schedules, posters, EHR prompts and patient handouts.

Sources: Public Health On Call, "A Judge Rules on Vaccines," Apr. 6, 2026; CDC interim influenza considerations, Sept. 1, 2026.

Kansas reaffirmation of guidelines

Jan. 16, 2026 **KDHE said it did not anticipate changing Kansas clinical guidance for childhood immunization schedules.**

- KDHE recommended that Kansas clinicians rely on clinical training and professional judgment.
- KDHE directed clinicians to childhood/adolescent schedules published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).
- KDHE emphasized evidence-based information, transparency and shared decision-making with parents, caregivers, and patients.
- School and child-care immunization requirements remain a separate Kansas regulatory question.

Sources: KDHE Vaccine Recommendations (Jan. 16, 2026); KDHE Immunizations; KDHE Immunization Regulations & Recommendations.

Kansas reinforced that approach for respiratory vaccines

Children

Follow AAP respiratory immunization guidance for 2026–27.

Adults and Pregnancy

Use AAFP and ACOG guidance for adult and pregnant/postpartum patients.

Immunocompromised

Use IDSA guidance; AMA provides a consolidated respiratory vaccine resource.

KDHE's through-line: clinical training + professional judgment + specialty-society guidance.

Source: KDHE KS-HAN, Respiratory Vaccine Guidance, Sept. 15, 2026.

The simplest way to explain the landscape

What did the President/HHS direct?	White House / HHS primary documents
What is CDC currently publishing?	Current CDC clinical guidance
What did ACIP vote/recommend?	ACIP meeting records + CDC adoption status
What does Kansas advise clinicians?	KDHE guidance / KS-HAN
What is required for school/child care?	Kansas statutes and regulations
What should this patient receive?	Current evidence + specialty guidance + individual risk/preferences

Framework synthesized from CDC, HHS, KDHE, and Public Health On Call sources.

How to have the conversation

1 ACKNOWLEDGE	"You're right—the federal recommendations and the process have changed."
2 CLARIFY	"A policy change is not automatically the same thing as new evidence that a vaccine is unsafe."
3 PERSONALIZE	"Let's look at age, pregnancy, health conditions, exposures, travel and prior doses."
4 RECOMMEND	"Based on the current evidence and Kansas/specialty guidance, here is what I recommend for you."

Communication framework adapted from the prior health-officer deck and Public Health On Call themes.

Three common questions — and concise answers

"If CDC changed it, does that mean the old recommendation was wrong?"

Not necessarily. Recommendation categories can change because of policy, process, risk thresholds or new evidence. Ask what specifically changed and why.

"Who should I trust when recommendations conflict?"

Use transparent evidence, your clinician's judgment, and the current guidance relevant to your population. In Kansas, KDHE points clinicians to AAP/AAFP/ACOG and other specialty guidance.

"Is this vaccine still safe?"

Answer the safety question directly from current evidence and product-specific data. Do not use a recommendation-category change as a proxy for a safety finding.

Sources: KDHE 2026 guidance; CDC shared clinical decision-making framework; Public Health On Call.

What Not To Do

Do not say	**"Nothing has changed."** Something has changed—the federal policy/process and, in some cases, recommendation categories.
Do not say	**"CDC says X, so that settles it."** Current guidance may involve CDC, courts, Kansas and specialty societies.
Do not say	**"This is all political."** That invites a political argument instead of a clinical discussion.
Do instead	**Name the change, name the evidence, name the Kansas guidance, and make a patient-specific recommendation.**

Practical communication guidance; verify current recommendations before use.

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A 60-second Kansas message

"Federal vaccine recommendations and the process used to develop them have changed over the last two years. In Kansas, KDHE continues to advise clinicians to use their clinical training and professional judgment and to follow guidance from major medical specialty organizations. A change in federal recommendation category does not automatically mean a vaccine has new safety problems. For an individual patient, we should look at the current evidence, the person's risk factors and preferences, and the guidance that applies to them — and then make a clear clinical recommendation."

Draft talking point based on KDHE guidance and the communication framework in this presentation.

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Five Takeaways

1. **Federal vaccine policy now has more visible layers: presidential/HHS direction, CDC guidance, ACIP actions, and litigation.**
2. **A recommendation-category change is not synonymous with a new vaccine-safety finding.**
3. **Kansas has explicitly directed clinicians toward professional judgment and major medical specialty-society guidance.**
4. **Keep school requirements, federal recommendations, and individual clinical recommendations separate.**
5. **The best conversation is brief: acknowledge the change → clarify what it means → personalize → make a recommendation.**

Key sources & podcast episodes

- Johns Hopkins Public Health On Call — Changes to the CDC's Vaccine Advisory Committee (Jul. 17, 2025)
- Public Health On Call — HHS Changes Its Pediatric Vaccine Recommendations—Part 1 (Jan. 6, 2026)
- Public Health On Call — Vaccines 101: The Past, Present, and Future of the Federal Vaccine Schedule (Feb. 3, 2026)
- Public Health On Call — A Judge Rules on Vaccines (Apr. 6, 2026)
- Public Health On Call — The Executive Order on Childhood Vaccines (Aug. 14, 2026)
- HHS / CDC — CDC Acts on Presidential Memorandum to Update Childhood Immunization Schedule (Jan. 5, 2026)
- CDC — ACIP Recommendations; Evidence-Based Recommendations; Interim Influenza Clinical Considerations (Sept. 1, 2026)
- KDHE — Vaccine Recommendations (Jan. 16, 2026); Respiratory Vaccine Guidance / KS-HAN (Sept. 15, 2026)

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Thank You/Questions

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Connie Satzler
Envisage and Immunize Coalition Kansas

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Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) Resources for Hospitals and Staff

The **Immunize Kansas Coalition** is a group of engaged organizations and individuals, including healthcare providers, public health professionals, researchers, educators, healthcare payers, associations and nonprofits, vaccine producers, school nurses, pharmacists, parents, grandparents, and more, **who bring their expertise to support our mission**

IKC IMMUNIZE KANSAS COALITION

Working together to protect all Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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Overview:

- IKC's Distinctives, Channels, and Connection Opportunities
- Flu Resources
- Respiratory Virus Resources
- Hepatitis B Birth Dose Campaign
- Provider Education and Communications Hub
  - Vaccine Communications Resources
  - Provider Education Modules (CE available)
  - Parent-friendly Education Modules
- Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts, 2nd Edition

We recognize **Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15**. Spanish-language resources are featured throughout this presentation and on our webpage.

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IKC's Distinctives in the Kansas Immunization Community

Vaccine Education & Awareness
- Vaccine awareness and education resources for families and health professionals
- Trainings and continuing education modules for healthcare providers

Vaccine Communications
- Translate complex vaccine information into clear, accessible messages
- Create campaigns, print resources, social media content, and other outreach materials
- Help partners answer questions and communicate with confidence

Partner Connections and Immunization Advocacy
- Connect immunization partners across Kansas to share information, resources, and updates
- Keep partners informed about policy developments and opportunities to support immunization

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IKC Channels & Connection Opportunities

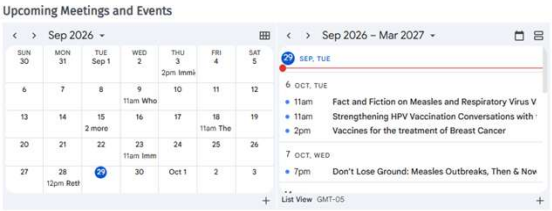
Website
- Information & resources available digitally

Social Media
- Each platform has a slightly different focus
- Connect/follow through our website
- Regular campaigns

Calendar
- Find IKC events and other partner training opportunities

Quarterly Meetings, Advocacy Day
- Register on our webpage

More from IKC
- Newsletter
- Conferences and community events
- Print resources



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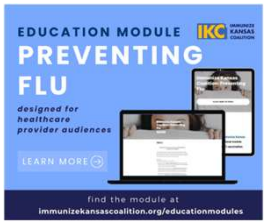
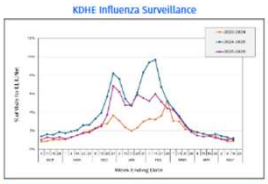
#KansasFightsFlu Resources

- **Continuously updated webpage** with flu information and educational resources
- **Preventing Flu Education Module** (CE available for healthcare professionals)
- **New! You Can't Afford to be Unvaccinated Campaign** in collaboration with Voices for Vaccines
- **Collegiate Challenge Toolkit** with flyers, infographics, and social media messaging (more coming soon!)
- **KDHE's Influenza Surveillance**
- **KDHE's Influenza Vaccine Dashboard**
- **And More!**





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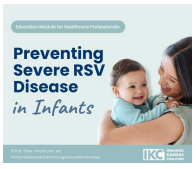
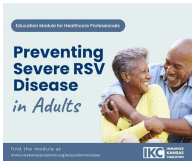
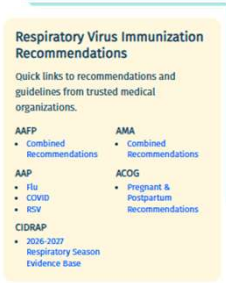
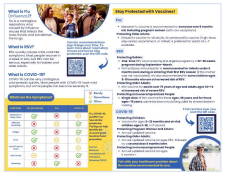
Respiratory Virus Resources

- **Continuously updated webpage** with resources for flu, RSV, and COVID-19 information and educational resources
- **Respiratory Virus Immunization Recommendations** from trusted medical organizations
- **Education Modules with focuses on RSV and flu** for Providers and Parents
- **Preventing RSV in Infants Handout**
- **Preventing RSV in Adults Handout**
- **IKC's Respiratory Season Brochure** in English and Spanish
- KDHE's Respiratory Illness Dashboard
- **And more!**









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Hepatitis B Birth Dose Campaign

In collaboration with the Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) and the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA)

Resources available in English and Spanish

- **Handouts** –tailored for both healthcare providers and parents (In English and Spanish)
- **One Mom's Story: Protecting Her Daughter with the HepB Birth Dose**
- **Door Posters** for Hospitals and Clinics
- **Educational Rack Cards** for Parents
- **Featured Webinar Recording** by the Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP)
- **Social Media Graphics and Captions**
- **Short-Form Videos**

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New!

Provider Education and Communications Resource Hub

IKC IMMUNIZE KANSAS COALITION

- **Provider-focused education modules –** featuring 6 new modules
- **Immunization schedules and schedule-related tools** from trusted organizations
- **Enduring materials** from IKC's "Reducing Vaccination Pain & Anxiety in Children" and "Preventing Severe RSV in Infants" webinars
- **Featured digital and print IKC resources** for providers and teams
- Second Edition of IKC's popular booklet: **Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts**
- **And more!**

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New Online Education Modules

For Providers:

Continuing education information can be found on the module webpages.

These opportunities include **no-cost continuing education for physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurses, and nurse practitioners.**

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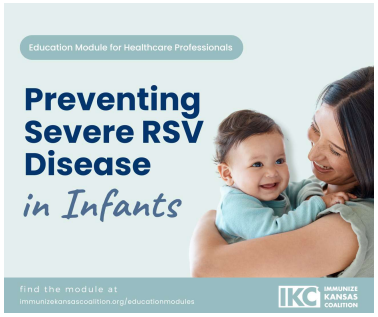

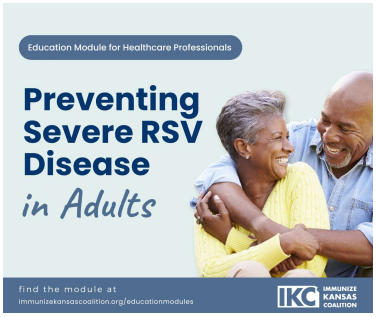

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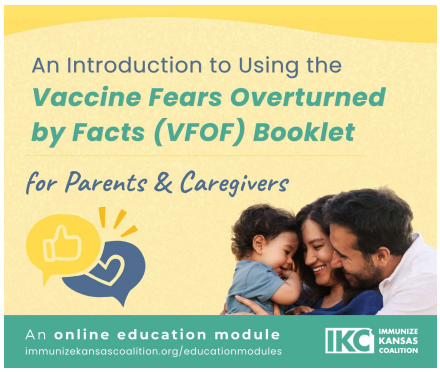
For Parents & Caregivers:



View the modules on our education module webpage.

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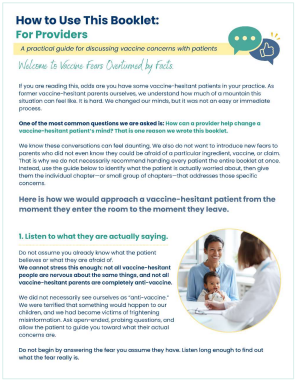
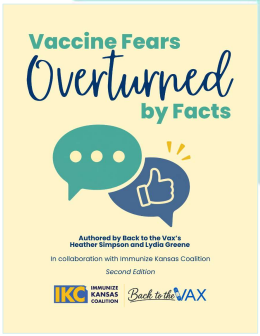
Second Edition of Our Popular Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts Booklet

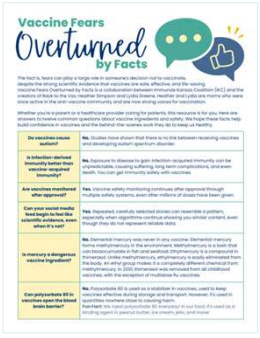
Available in English and Spanish

In collaboration with Back to the VAX

- Featuring **8 NEW Topics**
- Quotes from former anti-vaccine moms
- Previous topics with a fresh perspective
- **And supporting resources**
  - Provider and Parent **"How to Use This Booklet" Guides**
  - **Key Facts One-Pager** in English and Spanish
  - **Topical Handouts** for Quick Reference in English and Spanish
  - Supporting **Education Modules** for Providers and Parents
  - **And more!**







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Connect and Engage with IKC

- **Register for our November Coalition Meeting**
  - November 13th from 9:30- 11:00 a.m. (Virtual)
- **Save the Date: IKC Advocacy Day**
  - February 10, 2027
- **Sign up for IKC's Connects Email**
  - Keeping you up to date on the latest IKC resources, vaccine information, meetings/events, and more!
- **Follow IKC on Social Media**
  - @immunizekscoalition
  - @ImmKSCoalition
  - @immunize-kansas-coalition
  - @ImmKSCoalition

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- What vaccine-related questions are you hearing from your patients and/or staff?
- What barriers to immunization uptake are you experiencing?
- Are there any immunization-related resources you wish you had?

We always welcome your feedback on resources and information you'd like to hear!

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Upcoming Offerings

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2026 Upcoming Events & Webinars

Mark your calendars and plan to register for these Fall educational offerings:

- November 12 – Regional Workshop: Nursing Documentation in Oakley
- November 17 – Quality Corner Call: NRHA Awards and Full Ship Grant Recognition
- November 24 - Virtual MBQIP Basics
- December 3 – SHIP Quarterly Webinar
- February 2 – Quality Corner Call

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Funding Acknowledgement

This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $1.1M with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

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