



**VACCINATE
YOUR FAMILY**

*A Legacy of Prevention,
a Future of Protection*

September 18, 2026

Erica Schwartz, MD, MPH, JD (RADM, USPHS, RET)
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Schwartz,

On behalf of Vaccinate Your Family, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding reports that updated COVID-19 vaccines have not yet been made available for ordering through the CDC's ordering portal for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

For more than three decades, Vaccinate Your Family has worked alongside CDC and our nation's immunization partners to ensure that a family's financial circumstances do not determine whether a child is protected from vaccine-preventable disease. The current situation threatens that fundamental principle.

Nearly three weeks have passed since FDA approval of the updated COVID-19 vaccines, yet states reportedly remain unable to order doses through VFC. Meanwhile, pediatric doses are available in the private market for children whose families have commercial insurance or the resources to pay out of pocket. The result is an unacceptable disparity in access: children who rely on VFC are being asked to wait while other children can be vaccinated.

This is precisely the type of inequity our cofounders spurred policymakers to remedy through the creation of the VFC program.

Vaccinate Your Family has spent 35 years
ensuring millions of children and adults have
access to lifesaving vaccines.

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VFC is one of the great achievements of our nation's immunization infrastructure, providing access to vaccines for approximately half of America's children. Its success rests not only on the availability of vaccines, but on their timely availability. Delays can mean missed opportunities during routine pediatric visits, additional burdens on families and providers, and children remaining unprotected longer than necessary.

We recognize that CDC is operating in an extraordinarily complex policy environment and that some decisions regarding vaccine recommendations and VFC coverage extend beyond the authority of any one individual or agency. Nevertheless, we respectfully urge CDC and HHS to resolve the outstanding issues immediately and make updated COVID-19 vaccines available through VFC without further delay.

We would also welcome greater transparency for state and local immunization programs, providers, and families regarding the reason for the delay, the steps necessary to resolve it, and the anticipated timeline for vaccine ordering and distribution.

Dr. Schwartz, as you begin your leadership of CDC, we appreciate your stated commitment to transparency and rebuilding trust. Ensuring that children have equitable and timely access to vaccines is foundational to that trust.

Vaccinate Your Family stands ready to work with you and your colleagues at CDC to address barriers to immunization and protect the integrity of the vaccine safety net that generations of public health leaders worked so hard to build.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and your team.

Warm regards,

Amy Pisani

Amy Pisani, MS
Chief Executive Officer
Vaccinate Your Family

