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News Release

## Statement from Leading Medical, Health and Patient Advocacy Groups on CDC Autism Website Changes



Our organizations, representing autistic individuals, their families, medical professionals and public health workers, are alarmed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is promoting the outdated, disproven idea that vaccines cause autism.

Medical researchers across the globe have spent more than 25 years thoroughly studying this claim. All have come to the same conclusion: Vaccines are not linked to autism.

This false rumor distracts from pressing, urgent issues in children's health. Amplifying this claim and encouraging unnecessary investigations only worsens parents' fears; it will not lead to better therapies, improved support for caregiving families, or changes in health care, education, and society in ways that would help children with autism thrive. Rather than devoting needed resources right now to support people with autism and their families in every community, our taxpayer-funded health agencies are using public resources to spread harmful rumors. Autistic people are valued members of society and, like all of us, deserve research that helps health care and other systems address genuine needs.

Today, our organizations reject this latest attempt to create fear around routine childhood immunizations. Vaccines rank among our greatest medical success stories. Thanks to vaccines, serious diseases that once made thousands sick every year and caused life-long health issues have become rare. We cannot risk losing this progress. Together, we call on the CDC to return to its long history

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of promoting evidence-based information in the service of protecting the health and well-being of all Americans.

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American Academy of Pediatrics

Academic Pediatric Association

AcademyHealth

Alanas Foundation

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American College of Physicians

American Families for Vaccines

American Medical Association

American Pediatric Society

American Pharmacists Association

American Public Health Association

America's Physician Groups

Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology

Autism Science Foundation

Autism Society of America

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Big Cities Health Coalition

CDC Alumni and Friends Network

Common Health Coalition

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Doctors for America

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Health Equity Community Collaborative

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Hepatitis B Foundation

Infectious Diseases Society of America

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Vaccine Access Center

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Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

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