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At a Glance

- HHS has released another new ACIP charter that details changes regarding the committee’s membership, scope, meeting cadence, and relationship to VFC coverage.
- A CDC-led study showing COVID-19 vaccines reduced emergency visits and hospitalizations was published in *JAMA* after reportedly being blocked from publication in *MMWR*.
- A major influenza outbreak at Lackland Air Force Base prompted the Pentagon to restore flu immunization requirements for new military recruits.
- New studies reaffirm the safety of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and same-day flu/COVID-19 vaccination, while CDC research shows flu vaccination substantially reduces the risk of pediatric flu death.
- HHS will begin phasing out COVID-19 Emergency Use Authorization declarations.

Detailed Brief

HHS has released another new ACIP charter that details changes regarding the committee’s membership, scope, meeting cadence, and relationship to VFC coverage.

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [published](#) a new charter for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on June 24.
- The latest 2026 charter makes several notable changes from prior versions that could affect how the committee is staffed, how recommendations are developed, and which outside perspectives are formally represented in deliberations.
 - Specifically, the updated charter broadens member qualification language, adds explicit consideration of non-vaccine interventions and international immunization practices, shifts committee governance closer to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) leadership, removes the expectation that ACIP meet three times per year, and softens language tying ACIP recommendations to coverage for children eligible under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

- The new charter is the latest development for a committee that has faced significant turbulence over the last year. ACIP has historically met three times per year—in February, June, and October—but has not met thus far in 2026.

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- A [study](#) finding that COVID-19 vaccines reduced hospitalizations and emergency room visits—originally [blocked](#) from publication in a March 2026 edition of the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (*MMWR*) by then-Acting Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD—was published in *JAMA* on June 23.
- The study, conducted with CDC scientists, found that vaccination reduced COVID-19-related emergency visits by 50% and hospitalizations by 55% among adults from September to December 2025.
- Bhattacharya reportedly blocked the study's publication over concerns about its methodology, which used a test-negative design (TND). This approach is widely used and accepted in vaccine effectiveness research, particularly for respiratory viruses, and has been used in [previous *MMWR* editions](#).

A major influenza outbreak at Lackland Air Force Base prompted the Pentagon to restore flu immunization requirements for new military recruits.

- A major influenza outbreak at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas has underscored the importance of influenza vaccination.
 - In late April, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth [ended](#) the military's longstanding requirement that U.S. service members receive an annual flu vaccination, making the vaccine optional across the force. Following the change, only 40% of new trainees at Lackland opted to receive the vaccine.
- By June 24, nearly 300 cases and at least four hospitalizations had been reported among Lackland trainees. The Air Force also confirmed that a 25-year-old trainee [died](#) from the flu.
- By late June, the Pentagon had [restored](#) the flu vaccination requirement for all recruits entering military boot camps, including in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

New studies reaffirm the safety of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and same-day flu/COVID-19 vaccination, while CDC research shows flu vaccination substantially reduces the risk of pediatric flu death.

- A [new study](#) in *The Lancet* reaffirmed the safety and efficacy of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
 - In a review covering billions of doses of mRNA vaccines, researchers found that serious adverse events due to COVID-19 vaccination are rare, and the vaccines' substantial protection against severe disease far outweighs any risks.
- [Another study](#) published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that receiving flu and COVID-19 vaccines on the same day (coadministration) does not increase the risk of adverse reactions compared with receiving flu vaccine alone.
 - These findings add to a substantial [evidence base](#) on the safety of vaccine coadministration.
- Additionally, a [study](#) by CDC researchers found that flu vaccination reduced the risk of flu-related deaths among children by 80% from August 2016 through July 2025.
 - Flu vaccination was 87% effective against flu-related death among children without underlying medical conditions and 77% among children with such conditions.
 - These results come after the 2024-2025 flu season recorded the highest number of pediatric flu fatalities on record, as vaccination rates have been declining since 2021.

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- HHS [announced](#) on June 30 that it will begin phasing out the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) declarations that have been in effect for certain COVID-19 drugs, biologics, and medical devices since the 2020 pandemic.
 - The EUAs will expire on Dec. 26, 2026, for medical devices and June 29, 2027, for drugs and biologics, giving manufacturers some time to seek full approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) if they want these products to remain on the market.
- The announcement is not expected to have a significant practical impact. All COVID-19 vaccines licensed in the U.S.—[Comirnaty](#), [Nuvaxovid](#), and [Spikevax](#)—are already fully approved by the FDA.
- However, a small number of non-vaccine COVID-19 products are still available under an EUA and will need full FDA approval to remain available after the transition period.

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