

Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee (IAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2026

Time: 2:03 p.m. – 3:32 p.m.

Location: WebEx Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair Marielle Fricchione.

2. Attendance

IAC Member Roll Call (facilitated by Emily Spangler):

- Arti Barnes
- Allison Bartlett
- Craig Batterman
- Paula Campbell
- Archana Chatterjee
- Denise Flores
- Marielle Fricchione
- Bessie Geevarghese
- Patrick Harper
- Janet Jokela
- Kiran Joshi
- Corinne Kohler
- Heather Kypta
- Edward Linn
- Amanda Minor (joined 2:16 pm)
- Gira Patel
- Jennie Pinkwater
- Garth Reynolds
- Caitlyn Van Dame
- Theresa Wilburn

Members Absent:

Vidya Sundareshan

Quorum: achieved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve December 16, 2025 meeting minutes by Corinne Kohler. Second by Kiran Joshi. Vote: 16 yes, 3 abstain, 0 no. Motion passed.

4. Public Comment

No individuals registered for public comment, and no public comment was provided.

5. Director's Remarks

IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra thanked committee members for their continued service and acknowledged the committee's prior votes and ongoing work. He welcomed new members Gira Patel (CDPH) and Caitlyn Van Dame (ISBE).

Dr. Vohra described how Illinois' vaccine advisory system has enabled the state to continue providing high-quality public health guidance despite recent federal actions taken without new evidence or a transparent public process. He referenced changes announced in early January 2026 that significantly altered federal vaccine recommendations.

Dr. Vohra stated that IDPH had previously endorsed the August 2025 CDC immunization schedule, which aligned with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). However, he noted that now that it is 2026, continued endorsement of a prior-year CDC schedule could create confusion. He highlighted that the AAP released a 2026 Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule independent of ACIP—an unprecedented action in more than 30 years—endorsed by multiple national medical organizations.

He emphasized that the IAC is tasked with deliberating what Illinois should adopt as its own immunization policy and reiterated that the committee would continue to meet throughout 2026 and beyond as evidence evolves. Dr. Vohra underscored that science is not static and that changes to immunization policy should be grounded in evidence and transparency.

6. Approval of IAC Bylaws

Chair Fricchione asked whether members had questions regarding the draft bylaws; no questions were raised. Motion to approve new bylaws by Edward Linn, second by Patrick Harper. Vote: 20 yes, 0 no.

Motion passed. Bylaws approved.

7. Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule Review

Chair Fricchione outlined the materials provided to members in advance and thanked topic-area leads for their review. She asked the committee to consider the impact of potential schedule changes on children in Illinois and noted the importance of outreach and targeted education.

Dr. Jennifer Seo (IDPH) presented on the development of child and adolescent immunization schedules and reviewed the historical collaboration between ACIP and the AAP. She explained that the AAP independently developed and released its 2026 schedule after reviewing vaccine safety data, disease epidemiology, disease burden, and vaccine effectiveness. The schedule was endorsed by multiple national medical organizations.

Dr. Seo noted that IDPH conducted its own literature review and identified no new evidence supporting recent federal changes. She reviewed evidence related to rotavirus, hepatitis A, and meningococcal vaccines, emphasizing disease burden, morbidity, mortality, and health system impacts. Dr. Seo stated that COVID-19, influenza, ~~and RSV~~, and hepatitis B were not reviewed as they had been previously addressed, and HPV was excluded due to an ongoing Vaccine Integrity Project review.

Chair Fricchione thanked Dr. Seo and emphasized that disease statistics represent real people and real impacts, and that vaccine recommendations reflect careful consideration of these outcomes.

8. Federal Immunization Schedule Changes

Chair Fricchione reviewed recent federal actions related to immunization schedules, including January 2026 announcements, the removal of certain consensus recommendations, and the expansion of shared clinical decision-making (SCDM). She highlighted inconsistencies and omissions affecting high-risk populations and noted concerns regarding the removal of the hepatitis B birth dose from the federal schedule.

She summarized subsequent actions by medical organizations, including legal challenges and public statements, and expressed concern about the implications for standard of care, equity, and public trust.

9. Committee Discussion

Committee members discussed the implications of recent federal changes, with a consistent focus on clarity, trust, feasibility, and equity.

Members noted that expanded use of shared clinical decision-making without supporting evidence creates confusion for providers and families, undermines vaccine confidence, and complicates school compliance and insurance coverage. Several members highlighted the strain on healthcare systems, including hospitals experiencing high census and seasonal disease resurgence.

Members representing provider education, pharmacy practice, school health, vaccine access, equity, and outbreak response emphasized risks to routine vaccination, VFC operations, pharmacist participation, and underserved populations. Concerns were raised about erosion of trust not only in vaccines but in the healthcare system more broadly.

Multiple members stated that recent changes were not supported by new scientific evidence and reflected ideological rather than evidence-based decision-making. Members strongly emphasized the importance of maintaining an evidence-based, public health–focused approach and expressed support for alignment with the AAP schedule to ensure clarity and continuity of care.

10. Vote: Endorsement of Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule

Proposed vote language:

The IAC advises IDPH to endorse and recommend the 2026 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, in its most updated form, until further notice. Motion to approve vote language by Patrick Harper. Second by Edward Linn. Vote: 19 yes, 0 no (Batterman left call). Motion passed.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Archana Chatterjee, seconded by Garth Reynolds. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Marielle Fricchione at 3:32 p.m.