



MEDIA STATEMENT – Dec. 5, 2025

The Immunization Partnership (TIP) on Today’s ACIP Vote to Delay the First Dose of the Hepatitis B Vaccine

The Immunization Partnership is alarmed by today’s 8–3 vote by the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to delay the first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine for many newborns. For more than 30 years, the birth-dose recommendation has been a critical, science-driven safeguard to protect infants from a virus that can cause lifelong illness, liver disease and death.

Delaying this first dose until two months of age for infants born to mothers who test negative ignores the real-world risks families face. Many mothers do not receive consistent prenatal care, test results can be incomplete or inaccurate, and hepatitis B can still be transmitted through household or caregiver exposure after birth. Removing the universal birth-dose recommendation introduces gaps that put newborns at unnecessary risk — especially in Texas.

TIP urges CDC leadership to fully assess the harmful impact this change could have on infant health and to prioritize policies that keep all children safe. We are also concerned that ACIP arrived at this decision using arguments shaped by misleading information and anecdote rather than the strong scientific evidence that has guided the birth-dose recommendation for more than 30 years.

For more information, contact: Darryl Ewing / dewing@immunizeusa.org

IMMUNIZE. PREVENT WHAT’S PREVENTABLE.

P.O. Box 346 • Houston, TX 77001 • Phone 281.400.3689 • Fax 866.214.6044

www.immunizeUSA.org