



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Massie  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Massie,

Thank you for your October 20, 2023, letter to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH, regarding information and guidance published on CDC's website. I am pleased to respond on behalf of CDC.

At CDC, data drives public health decisions. CDC is committed to ensuring that its information and products are scientifically sound, technically accurate, and made available in a timely manner. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC issued numerous public health guidance documents specific to the differing needs of Americans. CDC continues to monitor COVID-19 to ensure that CDC guidance and recommendations reflect the most up-to-date science.

CDC published the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, "The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine" on December 18, 2020. CDC issued "*Erratum: Vol. 69, No. 50*" on January 29, 2021, stating, "on page 1922, in the third paragraph, the third and fourth sentences should have read **Consistent high efficacy ( $\geq 92\%$ ) was observed across age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among persons with underlying medical conditions. Efficacy was similarly high in a secondary analysis including participants both with or without evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.** Although numbers of observed hospitalizations and deaths were low, the available data were consistent with reduced risk for these severe outcomes among vaccinated persons compared with that among placebo recipients." It was and still remains the case that immunity against COVID-19, whether acquired through vaccination and/or prior infection, is imperfect and wanes over time. For this reason, it is important, even for people who have previously been infected, to stay current with their COVID-19 vaccine.

The scientific evidence is clear—vaccination is the best protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. Vaccination has also improved the quality of life for many, and serious diseases like smallpox have been eliminated.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) plays an important role in assuring a diverse panel of medical and public health experts issue recommendations that shape public

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health guidance and policymaking. ACIP only makes recommendations for vaccines that are authorized or approved for use in the United States. Before recommending any vaccine, ACIP also considers how safe and effective the vaccine is when given at specific ages, the severity of a vaccine-preventable disease, and the number of people who would get the disease if there was no vaccine.

Thank you again for your interest in this issue. CDC remains committed to leading with science, promoting equity, and protecting the American public. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at (202) 690-7627.

Sincerely,

*Melanie Anne Egorin*

Melanie Anne Egorin, PhD  
Assistant Secretary for Legislation

cc: The Honorable J. Luis Correa, Ranking Member