

## New York Academy of Medicine Statement on Vaccine Research and Safety

For over 178 years, New York Academy of Medicine has championed evidence-based population health. We have consistently supported sound scientific research and practice to protect and advance health for all, from advocating for smallpox vaccines to guiding communities through the COVID pandemic. We reaffirm our commitment to vaccine science, ongoing research, evidence-based guidelines, availability and funding, that are the cornerstones of public health progress.

### The Science is Clear

Vaccines are one of medicine's greatest advances, with decades of strong, validated evidence supporting immunization. In the United States over the past 30 years, childhood vaccinations have prevented an estimated 508 million illnesses, 32 million hospitalizations, and over one million deaths.<sup>1</sup> The return on investment from childhood vaccinations is \$11 and for adult vaccination up to \$19 for every dollar spent, not only saving lives but preserving a healthier workforce and our national economy.<sup>2</sup>

These outcomes reflect the dedication of researchers and healthcare providers working to keep communities safe.

### Stance from Other Leading Scientific and Medical Organizations

Our position aligns with organizations such as the American Medical Association<sup>3</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>4</sup>. Leading scientific and medical organizations collectively affirm that vaccines undergo thorough clinical trials and safety monitoring, meeting high standards of scientific rigor, and recognize that immunizations save lives and protect public health by preventing severe disease and hospitalizations. We stand with the Northeast Public Health Collaborative in advancing science-driven strategies to strengthen vaccine confidence and protect the health of every community.

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<sup>1</sup> Zhou F, Jatlaoui TC, Leidner AJ, et al. Health and Economic Benefits of Routine Childhood Immunizations in the Era of the Vaccines for Children Program — United States, 1994–2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2024;73:682–685. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7331a2>

<sup>2</sup> El Banhawi H., Chowdhury S., Neri M., Radu P., Besley S., Bell E., Brassel S., Steuten L., , *Socio-Economic Value of Adult Immunisation Programmes* (2024). Contract Research. Available from <https://www.ohe.org/publications/the-socio-economic-value-of-adult-immunisation-programmes/>.

<sup>3</sup> [An open letter to the American public on respiratory virus vaccines | American Medical Association](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Vaccination Recommendations by the AAP](#)

## Our Commitment

New York Academy of Medicine remains committed to vaccine science by:

- Supporting rigorous, independent vaccine research
- Promoting clear communication about vaccine safety and efficacy
- Fostering dialogue between communities and providers
- Advancing equitable access to immunizations.

## Building Trust

Trust in vaccines depends on ongoing transparency and scientific excellence. Through research, education, and community partnerships, we are committed to providing accurate, evidence-based information.

The following resources may be helpful to individuals seeking to contribute their voices in support of continued robust vaccine practices:

- [The Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [National Foundation for Infectious Diseases](#)
- [New York State Department of Health](#)
- [Northeast Public Health Collaborative - NYC Health](#)
- [Securing the Foundation: Stakeholder Insights and Strategies for Maintaining a Strong Vaccine Infrastructure Across the US](#)

For parents who want to stay updated on requirements for New York schools, these resources are available:

- [School Immunization Requirements](#) (New York State Department of Health)
- [Immunizations](#) (New York City Public Schools)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Kurth".

Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, MPH  
President, New York Academy of Medicine

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne J. Riley".

Wayne J. Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP  
Chair, Board of Trustees, New York Academy of Medicine