



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**  
*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO

Contact: 518-527-3547

## **NYSACHO STATEMENT ON PROPOSED TERMINATION OF VACCINE PROJECTS AND FUNDING BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**STATEMENT BY: Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director**

Vaccines are one of the most effective and evidence-based tools we have to reduce illness, prevent hospitalizations, and save lives. Sustained investment in vaccine infrastructure is critical to maintaining a strong public health system that can respond quickly and effectively to both known and emerging threats.

Public health data clearly shows that any reduction in funding for vaccine research, development, or distribution threatens our ability to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and protect community health. Ending vaccine projects puts lives at risk, undermines disease prevention efforts, and leaves our communities more vulnerable to outbreaks, which is why NYSACHO has grave concerns about the HHS decision to terminate funding for vaccines and vaccine projects.

Cutting support for vaccine initiatives weakens the very foundation of our nation's health security and puts the well-being of all Americans at risk.

We cannot forget the experiences of the 19th century, and even the early 20th century, when millions of American children died before reaching adulthood. Or the fact that today we have the highest rates of measles cases in a generation because of decreased vaccination rates. This was an eradicated disease that was no longer a public health threat because of vaccines. Any policy hostile to proven vaccinations is a step backward to those terrible times when we didn't have the tools to protect public health. Today, we have those tools, and we should be doing all we can to embrace them.

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