

Episode 57DHXXO September 19 2025 RFK Junior CIP committee votes on Covid 19 vaccine access

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1 I am still confused member says during vote on national vaccine policy Notes from Day 1 of the CDC ACIP meeting Out is comprehensive evaluation of data or feasibility studies In is vibes! Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization Inside Medicine by Jeremy Faust MD September 19 2025 The CDC vaccine panel was unsure about exactly what they were voting on The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices began its two day meeting yesterday The committee now has twelve members all handpicked by HHS Secretary RFK Junior That includes five members rushed into service within the last couple of weeks As first reported here in Inside Medicine RFK Junior sought to quickly install seven new members in time for this September meeting In the end five of them made it onto the committee in time which is remarkable because the process is generally a deliberate one often taking months even years to ensure adequate vetting What did they do? They spent time acting as though they want to increase confidence in vaccines In what way did they do this? By spending swaths of time discussing febrile seizures associated with some vaccines events which are distressing to parents but ultimately benign That did not stop ACIP members from trying to inject doubt Do we really know that febrile seizures do not portend long term consequences? one member pressed at length Yes we really do know that This is what happens when you replace actual vaccine experts with dilettantes with no interest in any serious process that might affirm the status quo This whole thing was so hastily thrown together that nobody knew what was happening They are voting on legally binding motions that determine American vaccine policy Ultimately the MMRV resolution passed so the combined 4 vaccine shot is off the schedule and CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will not cover it Private insurance does not have to cover it but the American Health Insurance Plans AHIP has committed to ignoring this What did the second vote mean? Daskalakis Vaccines for Children VFC covers it but that coverage is not based on an ACIP recommendation No one knows what that means Seems like the committee would benefit from a vaccine expert or two and someone who can run a meeting In short the committee voted yes on recommending against the MMRV vaccine setting that

policy up to be a new CDC guideline but against overturning the previous commitment to pay for these vaccines under the Vaccines for Children VFC program An evidence to recommendation pathway? Nah Because ACIP votes determine what insurers must cover their deliberations must be transparent We had that until the Secretary RFK Junior reign In fact the new committee lack of transparency may end up exposing itself to legal action according to Professor Dorit Reiss of UC Law San Francisco Generally proposed votes are discussed during up to three ACIP meetings giving time for workgroups to assemble to get input from stakeholders and to conduct evidence and feasibility assessments According to Professor Reiss the final agenda usually shows up 1 to 2 weeks before though the voting language can change slightly in the days leading up to the meeting A key part of this is the evidence to recommendation pathway This process has been in use for years The idea is that not all data are equal A grading system is used to determine what evidence should be given strong versus little to no consideration Much of that process including adherence to the evidence grading system is now being ignored Several ex officio representatives at the meeting made this point when given floor time

Informed consent is a trope against vaccines Do not be fooled Throughout the meeting as in June we heard a lot about vaccinating with informed consent This sounds good We already do it We need consent of patients The only way to legally obtain that is through informing them about what is going on So harping on informed consent implies that physicians are forcing something onto patients or sneaking things by In reality everything in medicine balances risks and benefits Now if patients have questions we always answer them But I do not think we need to read the FDA label to every patient to whom we prescribe a medication Yet that seems like what those against vaccinations are after There would not be enough time to comply with such an edict Instead informed consent seems to be a catchphrase of the anti vax movement But if you look carefully you will notice that it is becoming a stand in for nothing you can ever say or do will convince us Today a member of ACIP literally advocated for MMR vaccines to be retested against a placebo Can you fathom the ethics of withholding that vaccine from children randomized to the placebo group in that study? The people who broke vaccine trust think they can fix it All day we kept hearing how the public does not trust vaccines This was raised as justification for fresh inquiries into vaccines long established as safe effective and crucially whose benefits exceed any risks They keep saying the windows are broken They do not mention that they or anti vaxxers they sympathize with are the very ones who threw the rocks at those windows This committee is conflicted on conflicts of interest Secretary RFK Junior claims he fired the previous ACIP members because of conflicts of interest His claims were false Meanwhile he installed new members with conflicts including those who have been paid witnesses in lawsuits against vaccine makers Meanwhile expert organizations sent representatives to the meeting as usual Once again the American Academy of Pediatrics boycotted Usually these representatives of organizations are involved in behind the scenes work leading up to the meeting including briefing the members But the RFK Junior HHS claims that these organizations are conflicted So they are now banned from the preparation process That point was made by some representatives including some who asked why their expertise including representing patients is no longer permitted An ACIP member failed Epidemiology 101 They are taking choice away Covid vaccines are next Various lackeys of Secretary RFK Junior have claimed that everything this administration is doing on vaccines will increase confidence in them Nothing they have done has increased access to any single vaccine In fact the vote today took choice away from parents who would prefer their children receive all of the protection offered by combination vaccines but with fewer needles

It is about to get worse Today we expect that the committee will move to drastically reduce Covid 19 vaccine availability I will be dismayed if access becomes more difficult than it already has become under this administration if ACIP limits the vaccine as narrowly as rumors suggest That is especially the case since ACIP will be enacting this without relying on the transparent evidence to recommendation pathway that served the American public for years The new ACIP which is the RFK Junior ACIP has lost my confidence That is not because of the biographies of its new members nor even any specific vote so far though both have been problematic I no longer trust ACIP because the RFK Junior version of the committee has decided to **spurn the rigorous truly scientific** processes that were in place

2 The RFK Junior Take on Vaccine Science Fractures Cohesive National Public Health Strategies

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization KFF Health News September 19 2025 A man in a suit sits at a table in front of a microphone Health and Human Services Secretary RFK Junior testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on September 4 Health and Human Services Secretary RFK Junior has had a busy few months He fired the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention purged the CDC vaccine advisory committee and included among the new members appointees who have views against vaccines The leadership upheavals which he says will restore trust in federal health agencies have led to the fracturing of a national cohesive immunization policy that has endured for 30 years States and medical societies that long worked in concert with the CDC are breaking with federal recommendations saying they no longer have faith in them amid the turmoil and the RFK Junior criticism of vaccines Roughly seven months after the RFK Junior nomination was confirmed they are rushing to draft or release their own vaccine recommendations while new groups are forming to issue immunization guidance and advice How the new system will work is still being hammered out Vaccine recommendations from states medical societies and other groups are likely to diverge creating dueling guidance and requirements Schoolchildren in New York may still generally need immunizations for example while others in places such as Florida may not need many vaccines There are potential financial ramifications too because historically private insurers Medicaid and Medicare have generally covered only vaccines recommended by the federal government If the CDC and its advisory group which began a two day meeting September 18 in Atlanta stop recommending certain vaccines hundreds of millions of people could wind up paying for shots that previously cost them nothing Some states are already taking steps to prevent that from happening which means where people live could determine if they will face costs You are seeing a proliferation of recommendations and the recommendations by everybody are different from the CDC said Michael Osterholm a University of Minnesota epidemiologist who launched an ad hoc group that provides vaccine guidance States and medical societies are basing their recommendations on science The recommendations out of CDC are magic smoke and mirrors RFK Junior has defended changes at the CDC and the revamping of the vaccine committee as necessary saying previous advisory panel members had conflicts of interest and agency leadership botched its pandemic response The CDC is the most corrupt agency at HHS and maybe the government RFK Junior said at a September 4 Senate committee hearing Susan Monarez the ousted CDC director testified September 17 at another Senate hearing about how RFK Junior told her to preapprove vaccine recommendations from the advisory panel or be fired RFK Junior has said HHS also plans to investigate vaccine injuries he says are not thoroughly tracked or investigated The CDC investigates injuries that are reported by providers or patients but RFK Junior has said he wants to recast the entire

program The Food and Drug Administration is already looking into cases of children who died following covid 19 vaccination The Democratic governors of California Hawaii Oregon and Washington fashioning themselves as the West Coast Health Alliance are coordinating to develop vaccine recommendations that will not necessarily follow those from the CDC The governors said in a joint statement that the CDC shake up has impaired the capacity of the CDC to prepare the nation for respiratory virus season and other public health challenges and this week issued 2025 to 2026 guidance for vaccination against viruses such as covid influenza and respiratory syncytial virus A group of northeastern states are exploring a similar collaborative The worst thing that could happen is that we have 50 different recommendations for the covid vaccine And medical societies such as the American Academy of Pediatrics are releasing covid vaccine recommendations that diverge for the first time from the CDC guidance Some states are seizing on the split to ensure access to shots Massachusetts is requiring insurers to cover vaccines recommended by the state health department rather than paying only for those suggested by the CDC making it the first state to guarantee such continued coverage AHIP a trade group representing insurers said on September 16 that health plans will cover immunizations including updated formulations of covid and flu vaccines that were recommended by the CDC panel as of September 1 with no cost sharing through the end of 2026 Pennsylvania is allowing pharmacists to give covid vaccines even if they are not recommended by the federal agency Instead they can follow recommendations from the pediatric academy and other medical groups Florida meanwhile plans to drop requirements for schoolchildren to get immunizations against chickenpox meningitis hepatitis B and some other diseases State lawmakers would need to take action to end mandates for all vaccines Joseph Ladapo the Florida surgeon general said in a September 3 press conference that any vaccine requirement is wrong and drips with disdain and slavery Some doctors criticize the decision as a dangerous step backward This is a terrifying decision that puts the lives of our children at risk said Richard Besser former acting director of the CDC The first school vaccine mandate was rolled out in the 1850s in Massachusetts for smallpox While all states have vaccine requirements for schoolchildren immunization rates for kindergarten students declined while cases of vaccine preventable measles and whooping cough surged in 2024 and 2025 The RFK Junior actions have thrust vaccines center stage and made him fodder for comedy Trump has repeatedly expressed pride in Operation Warp Speed a government initiative during The Trump previous administration that rapidly developed covid vaccines But Trump has also promoted a discredited theory linking vaccines and autism The Trump administration already narrowed recommendations for the covid vaccine despite no new safety risks with the shots although medical societies are continuing to recommend them for most people The gulf is expected to widen as the CDC advisory group reviews whether to change its guidance on a number of pediatric vaccines Other groups are also trying to provide vaccine and public health guidance driven in part by concerns that RFK Junior and other federal health leaders will make policy decisions and statements not grounded in science RFK Junior has promoted claims that aluminum used in many vaccines is linked to allergies despite a lack of evidence for the claims A Danish study in fact found aluminum was not linked to chronic disease but RFK Junior said the supplemental data of the study indicated it caused harm The journal that published the study defended the findings **Current and former CDC and HHS staffers along with public health academics and retired health officials have formed the National Public Health Coalition** a nonprofit to endorse recommendations and provide guidance on policy issues They plan to partner with state and local

health departments Another new group is Grandparents for Vaccines which bills itself as a volunteer led effort to raise awareness about vaccines And the Vaccine Integrity Project was launched in April by the University of Minnesota infectious disease center to review evidence for medical societies on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines We are going to continue to help wherever we can to address misinformation said Osterholm the center leader

Headlines The New York Times September 20 2025

3 Air Pollution from Wood Burning and Air Pollution from Fossil Fuel Burning contributes to Climate Change which contributes to wood burning Wildfires which contribute to Air Pollution The California Environmental Past Confronts Economic Worries of the Present The New York Times Governor Gavin Newsom and Democratic state lawmakers have focused on pocketbook concerns this year seeing the Democratic national losses as a reckoning California Democrats relaxed a landmark environmental law this year hoping to spur more housing construction Cities like San Francisco are struggling to build enough units Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times September 18 2025 California has long prided itself as an environmental trailblazer It was the first state to set its own vehicle emission rules and the first to outlaw plastic shopping bags In 2020 Gov Gavin Newsom a Democrat went so far as to seek a ban on the sale of new gas powered vehicles by 2035 Standing in front of several electric cars he warned automakers against being on the wrong side of history So it surprised environmentalists this year when Governor Newsom and Democratic lawmakers began backtracking on signature green initiatives They rebuked the California coastal preservation commission for regulatory overreach and rolled back the landmark California Environmental Quality Act better known as CEQA to address the California severe housing shortage Then to environmentalists came the unthinkable pushing legislation to keep oil refineries open and make oil drilling easier in California It is a complete 180 said a lawyer at the Climate Law Institute It is become more urgent than ever to rid ourselves of fossil fuels so it is really inexplicable why our policymakers in Sacramento are moving the exact opposite way we should be going Even in liberal California Democrats understand that voters are frustrated with the high cost of living in California and they are trying to show that they are doing something about it If they gain traction by tilting toward pocketbook issues even at the expense of long held environmental orthodoxy it could provide lessons to Democrats nationally even if it angers activists locally Gas prices have long been higher in California than elsewhere they are about 45 percent higher than the national average at the moment but lawmakers are worried that costs could skyrocket if they do not help the oil industry immediately And the transition to electric vehicles has not advanced to a point where drivers or politicians can ignore prices at the pump Climate leadership is not 10 dollars per gallon gas we need California to be an inspiration and not a cautionary tale said an Assemblywoman a Democrat from Orange County who chairs the energy committee in the State Assembly The modern environmental movement was born in California when an oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara captured the attention of Americans who were increasingly concerned about how development was harming the natural world around them The disaster led to the first Earth Day in 1970 when coast to coast demonstrations drew a stunning 20 million Americans one tenth of the US population at the time and precipitated action at the state and federal levels to safeguard the environment Soon after California enacted the California Environmental Quality Act which required reviews of new development

to address potential environmental impacts. In the years since California has approved a number of standards for water and air quality and the state instituted the first cap and trade programs in the United States. Democrats have long asserted that they can help American consumers and improve the environment all at once. They have promoted the idea that workers in fossil fuel industries can transition to jobs in clean energy. That drivers will ultimately save money by charging their vehicles instead of pumping gas. That homes will become more efficient and need less energy for heating and cooling. Newsom in a State of the State letter he sent to lawmakers last week still made that case. The oil legislation is part of a larger package of bills that Governor Newsom is expected to sign on Friday. One proposal would extend the California cap and trade program which sets limits on emissions and requires companies to buy credits if they exceed them. Another bill would allow California to participate in a regional energy grid which could increase reliability but also increase the share of electricity produced by fossil fuels. The tonal shift among Democrats seems partly to reflect a growing acceptance that the California transition to clean energy has not come as fast as they had once hoped. A vast majority of drivers still rely on gas powered vehicles and live in sprawling metropolitan areas where they do not regularly take mass transit. Meanwhile Republicans in Washington have made it even harder for Americans to adopt clean technologies. Trump and House Republicans this year blocked the state from carrying out the Newsom prohibition on the sale of new gas powered vehicles in 2035. They also revoked the California authority to set its own tailpipe emissions standards. And incentives for purchasing electric vehicles will end this month as a result of Republican legislation.

Alaska Trumpism Against Environmentalism Trump Nears Deal for Road Through Alaskan Wildlife Refuge The New York Times Aviation Europe Cyberattack Slows Check Ins and Threatens Delays at European Airports The New York Times Aviation Texas Equipment Outage Disrupts More Than 1000 Flights at Dallas Airports The New York Times Consumers Art That Artsy Mural on a Brooklyn Building It is a Whiskey Ad The New York Times Consumers Reading Book Review Born Equal by Akhil Reed Amar The New York Times

4 Democrats Tactics The Pipeline Fund **Inspired by Conservative Tactics an Obscure Group Seeks Sway for Democrats** The New York Times Inspired by Conservative Tactics an Obscure Group Seeks Sway for Democrats A liberal group that was spun off from a network funded by George Soros is looking to build off 2024 victories in Florida to help elect candidates to school boards and other local offices. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times September 20 2025 Last year as Democrats were dealt big setbacks in federal races nationwide a small crop of well-funded candidates in Florida picked up 15 school board seats that had been targeted by conservative groups in competitive counties. Now the obscure organization that backed those Florida candidates is planning a substantial expansion to cover more than half the country. **Pipeline Fund a left leaning group that helped funnel more than 1 million dollars plus support and training into the Florida races** is vying to establish itself as a liberal counter to the sprawling down ballot infrastructure on the right that has helped Republicans notch wins on school boards in county offices and in local judicial races. Those Florida victories defeated Moms for Liberty referring to the conservative rights of parents group that has focused intently on gaining influence at the hyperlocal level. Her remarks were part of her keynote address this week at the Pipeline Fund private conference in Philadelphia. **A spinoff from the Sixteen Thirty Fund a**

network of liberal organizations funded by George Soros the Pipeline Fund started on its own last year with a focus on down ballot elections The group is part benefactor and part matchmaker identifying candidates for these races and connecting them with state and national organizations for funding and support At the conference Ms Feriozzi announced that her organization would expand into 21 states for the 2026 elections in blue states like Connecticut and Colorado and deep red states like West Virginia and Alabama looking to identify and recruit thousands of candidates to run for local races Our path forward starts with great people running and serving in state and local offices Ms Feriozzi said Because the fight for democracy does not stop at state lines It has to be everywhere To meet these bigger ambitions the group has corralled the efforts of national liberal organizations like Demand Justice Sister District and the National Democratic Training Committee with its own state based organizations The group said it raised nearly 6 million dollars in 2024 and had raised more than 6 million dollars so far in 2025 although its tax forms have not been released publicly yet The Pipeline Fund borrows some concepts from the Bannon precinct project which sought to recruit and run far right conservatives for local positions like school boards town clerks county boards and county parties to both take over local government and eventually the Republican Party And the group is looking to counter the influence of organizations like Moms for Liberty which have influenced education policy nationally through school board elections But that does not mean solely engaging in the culture war issues animating the right While you are going around and talking to parents and taxpayers and voters they are still primarily talking about base line issues Louise Valentine the executive director of Lead Ohio a group backed by the Pipeline Fund said during a panel at the Philadelphia conference She recalled talking to a candidate who had been knocking on doors She is getting a lot of questions about why lunchtime is so short at middle school Other candidates heard about bullying at school Running for such seats can be difficult as candidates cannot expect to raise six figures or afford a campaign manager or staff One goal of the Pipeline Fund which operates largely behind the scenes is to help offset that burden by connecting local groups and candidates with established national organizations Mary Kusler a senior director at the National Education Association and a member of the Pipeline Fund board said the Pipeline Fund helped the National Education Association NEA the largest union of teachers in America identify more than 5000 current school board members who are also members of their union Local state and national groups are always looking for promising potential candidates The Pipeline Fund wants to be a one stop shop for this kind of data and it has built a national database to help identify and recruit people Easy access to this critical data has helped Lead NC an affiliate in North Carolina identify a select set of judicial races for 2026 and helped Lead PA identify 59 school board candidates in Pennsylvania for elections this year This is something I have been dreaming of Oliver Truong the executive outreach director of Lead PA said in an interview The database has over 12000 prospects in Pennsylvania sourced from partner organizations It is massive time savings he said I am able to get to those conversations about running faster as opposed to being mired down by list management

Democrats Schumer Wary of Blowback Holds Out on Mamdani The New York Times Fallout from Budget bill which funds tax breaks for the rich by taking from the poor and middle class Democrats Block GOP Spending Extension as Government Shutdown Looms The New York Times

5 Kamala Harris Critical Book Review of 107 Days Opinion Kamala Harris Is Out of Time The New York Times Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against

Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times September 20 2025 The title of the new memoir by Kamala Harris 107 Days is more revealing than it means to be In its simplest sense it marks the length of her 2024 presidential campaign the number of days from July 21 when Joe Biden left the race through November 5 when Harris lost it The book breaks down **countdown style** each chapter covering one day of the campaign Some chapters span several pages others a few paragraphs the **shortest is a handful of words** Harris also **skips several days altogether** Even when you are running for president of the United States I imagine some days are just more interesting than others But the title is not merely the duration of the Harris campaign it is also **her excuse for losing the election** Throughout the book the former vice president repeatedly laments that she did not have sufficient time to run the race she would have liked With more time Harris contends she could have **better sold her economic vision** With more time she could have forged a stronger connection with voters With more time she could have **made clear that she offered Americans a superior alternative to Trump** In 107 days I did not have enough time to show **how much more I would do to help them than he ever would** Harris writes And that makes me immensely sad It is a comforting explanation in part because it eases the burden of responsibility on Harris for her defeat After all the calendar is a structural impediment not a strategic or ideological one The Harris book is not as relentlessly damning of Biden as the book *Original Sin* by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson Still Harris acknowledges that an aging Biden got tired and that he needed rest and that even though she believed that he could still govern I do not believe it was incapacity she writes in a tellingly awkward formulation his deteriorating campaign skills worried her His voice was no longer strong his verbal stumbles more frequent Harris writes In one of the few chapters that breaks free from the 107 day time frame Harris flashes back to the Biden Trump debate and recalls speaking to Biden by phone during his preparation He did not sound upbeat she writes and I hung up feeling sorry for him The evening of the contest Harris had a gnawing feeling that things might not go right Even before the disaster of a debate had ended she writes the campaign staff had sent her wildly unrealistic talking points to guide her television appearances When Harris went on TV she tried gamely to split the difference arguing that the Biden 90 minutes onstage did not matter as much as three and a half years on the job Throughout 107 Days her own critiques of Biden are diplomatic but she quotes others ripping him and his staff apart A sense of disrespect from Biden and Trump permeates 107 Days Disrespect from Trump who aside from one phone conversation in which he told Harris she was doing a great job constantly insulted her intelligence questioned her background and belittled her qualifications But disrespect from Biden and his team too whom Harris says constantly undercut her and even whispered that she was not up to the top job using her to try to persuade Democrats to stick with Biden The Kamala Harris case for taking the Biden place rested on how quickly and seamlessly she could do it all I knew I was the candidate in the strongest position to win she writes The most qualified and ready The highest name recognition A powerful donor base When Democratic insiders asked her what sort of process the party should use to pick a new nominee she would retort This is the process — meaning this phone call this conversation this moment this person Harris dismissed the idea of mini primary formalities I mean who has the time? Much of the book recaps the campaign quoting the Harris speeches at length citing the nastier comments of Trump and pausing to quote television personalities Jake Tapper Van Jones Whoopi Goldberg and John King saying nice things about her The best moments in 107 Days happen when Harris is open about what she saw and clear about what she really thinks One such episode occurs

early in the book when Harris calls numerous Democratic luminaries immediately after Biden left the race hoping to enlist their support and her recollections of the exchanges capture their personalities I want to be part of your war council Hillary Clinton said suiting up for battle Bernie Sanders was on board Please focus on the working class not just on abortion And count Nancy Pelosi among those preferring a process We should have some kind of primary not an anointment Then there is Gavin Newsom governor of the Harris home state who simply responded Hiking Will call back He never did Another call was to Pete Buttigieg You are going to be a fantastic president he said and Harris admits in 107 Days that the transportation secretary and expert dismantler of Fox News interviewers was her top choice for running mate Instead she went for the rumpled Everyman vibe of Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota who later disappointed her during his debate with JD Vance You are not there to make friends with the guy who is attacking your running mate she said to the TV screen And when Trump said in an interview that Harris had only recently embraced her Black identity and a campaign adviser encouraged her to respond with a major Obama style speech on race Harris shut him down instantly Today he wants me to prove my race What next? He will say I am not a woman She did not want to embrace the cruelty of my opponent and that she felt she owed Biden her loyalty I want to keep people safe and help them thrive she says in her book and her preferred campaign lines We are not going back and I know the Trump type kept the focus squarely on her opponent Now Harris can see what is happening to our country In the afterword of 107 Days Harris looks upon the Trump second term and denounces right wing and religious nationalists pushing an authoritarian agenda We need to come up with our own blueprint that sets out our alternative vision for our country she urges A blueprint on how we will lead a government that truly works for the American people I have now read all three of the Harris books she published Smart on Crime in 2009 and The Truths We Hold in 2019 and the sense they give collectively is that of a prosecutor a senator and a presidential candidate genuinely wanting to do good but letting that good be defined by Democratic party orthodoxies of the moment Musk US Is Losing Race to Return to Moon Critics Say Pointing at SpaceX The New York Times

6 RFK Junior Vaccine Denials [The RFK Junior Vaccine Panel Votes to Limit Access to Covid Shots](#) The New York Times The RFK Junior Vaccine Panel Votes to Limit Access to Covid Shots The panel recommended that people consult a health professional before receiving a Covid vaccine Left unclear was whether Americans can still walk into pharmacies for shots Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times September 19 2025 The federal vaccine committee appointed by Health Secretary RFK Junior voted unanimously on Friday to further limit access to Covid vaccines recommending that adults 65 and older receive the shots only after discussing the potential benefits and risks with a health care provider The panel also said that everyone from 6 months to 64 years old could get the vaccine after consulting with a provider But it was unclear whether that contradicted the Food and Drug Administration authorization of the shots only for adults over 65 and younger people with certain health conditions Together the decisions raise questions about whether Americans can continue to walk into their neighborhood pharmacies for routine vaccinations or whether in some states they will first need permission from a doctor The votes came on the second meeting day of a committee that was hurriedly assembled by RFK Junior The recommendations approved by the panel called the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices were less restrictive than many had expected But they will still make it more difficult for pharmacists in some states to administer the shots to older adults

About two thirds of Americans who received the 2024 Covid vaccine got it at a pharmacy or a drugstore. We think that it is appropriate to bring it to something that is being discussed between a physician or medical provider and a patient said Retsef Levi the committee member who led the Covid work group and presented the proposed votes. The nation is no longer in an emergency situation he said. RFK Junior had already restricted access to the vaccine for healthy pregnant women and healthy children. The Food and Drug Administration authorized the 2025 Covid shot only for adults 65 and older or for other adults with certain medical conditions. The panel also unanimously voted to recommend that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describe the risks of Covid vaccines to patients and health care providers. Healthcare Providers are already legally required to provide patients with a sheet explaining the risks and benefits. But the committee stopped short of approving a recommendation that would also have required Americans to have a prescription for the vaccines. That proposal elicited the strongest disagreement among the panelists with some members noting that a significant percentage of Americans particularly those living in rural areas do not have access to a health care provider. It did not pass. Most of the committee members have publicly opposed Covid vaccines or vaccine mandates so their decision to limit access to the shots was not entirely surprising. But the language and the specifics of the restrictions alarmed some public health experts. There will be preventable deaths that result from these decisions said Doctor Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos who oversaw the CDC work group on the Covid vaccine before she resigned in June. Having people without vaccine and clinical expertise having the power to harm so much of the public is unbearable she said referring to the panelists.

7 RFK Junior Vaccine Denials Opinion [The RFK Junior Vaccine Mess](#) The New York Times [RAWSEP](#)
View This article does not even discuss the ACIP votes on the Covid 19 Vaccine on Friday September 19 2025. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times September 19 2025
In June RFK Junior fired all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices which makes recommendations about the childhood vaccine schedule claiming the move would restore public trust in vaccines. The new panel was assembled quickly and five new members were added earlier this week days before ACIP met on Thursday. When you set fire to institutional knowledge and quickly hire a bunch of people some of whom have a history of vaccine skepticism you get an ad hoc mess — not the gold standard science RFK Junior and his team keep promising. As of this writing the panelists were still arguing about whether Covid 19 vaccines work at preventing infection which feels like a Twitter thread from 2021. The RFK Junior ideology looms over so much of this. In a separate hearing on Wednesday the ousted Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Susan Monarez said that RFK Junior told her there was no science or evidence associated with the childhood vaccine schedule and that if she would not agree to changes to the schedule without having seen them first he would fire her. Though the outcome of the meetings this week was not as bad as many expected there was concern that the hepatitis B vaccine might be delayed the RFK Junior antipathy toward the regular childhood vaccine schedule seems clear. Last week Senator Bill Cassidy called for RFK Junior to publicly encourage parents to have their children get the pertussis vaccine which he has not yet done despite the fact that in the past year alone at least four infants two in Kentucky and two in Louisiana died from pertussis. Neither the infants nor their mothers were vaccinated in the Kentucky cases. As long as RFK Junior remains in office his presence will signal to many parents that vaccines are not to be trusted. That message is percolating especially among younger parents who are so far removed from the reality of pre

vaccine outbreaks that they may not understand the peril A poll released earlier this week from KFF and The Washington Post noted Parents under age 35 are also less likely than older parents particularly those ages 50 and older to say they are either very or somewhat confident that routine vaccines are safe for children We definitely need to restore American trust in vaccines but the amateur hour ACIP display is not going to do it

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Venezuela Trump War Trump Says US Military Attacked a Third Suspected Drug Boat Killing Three The New York Times Venezuela Trump Says US Will Institute 100000 dollar Fee for H 1B Visas The New York Times

8 Europe Trump Kirk Actions **Some Europeans Fear Trump Aides Want a Far Right Takeover** The New York Times Some Europeans Fear Trump Aides Want a Far Right Takeover The European leaders have concerns that US officials are pushing for parties that support their views of nationalism and traditional values to come into power **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times September 20 2025 Trump has called the European Union a foe set up to take advantage of the United States and worse than China as an economic competitor Vice President JD Vance has criticized European democracy as deeply flawed suppressing religious expression and dissent promoting uncontrolled migration without voter consent canceling elections and censoring the far right thus limiting political debate Vance has even gone further wading into the politics of Germany during the election in Germany this spring a departure from the custom of world leaders staying out of the domestic affairs of allies After his surprise attack on European democracy in a Munich speech in February he met with the head of a far right party considered against the constitution and extremist the Alternative for Germany AfD In the months since Trump took office other administration officials have declared their support for right wing parties in nearly every country in Europe including Britain the Czech Republic France Hungary

Italy the Netherlands Romania Slovakia and Spain Those parties the Trump officials said represent a so called civilizational nationalism that favors national identity and strong leaders After the killing of the Kirk and in recent days Trump has fueled the battle Trump has escalated efforts to crack down on what they call hate speech from the left celebrating the silencing of popular critics like the late night host Jimmy Kimmel this week The Federal Communications Commission chairman Brendan Carr also suggested that regulators could use their powers against ABC the network that airs the Kimmel show and the local stations that carry it Some Europeans have expressed worry that Trump and the effort of Trump allies to silence liberal criticism especially through popular pressure driven by social media will be a model for their own far right and populist parties which are already being made more credible by support from Washington In Warsaw during the presidential campaign in Poland Kristi Noem the US secretary of homeland security told conservatives in May that the leaders of Europe leaders are weak Noem said the leaders of Europe have destroyed our countries because they have led by fear They have used fear to con people and they have used fear to promote an agenda that is not what liberty is about that is not what freedom is about Noem openly backed Karol Nawrocki the candidate of a far right Polish party that wants an altered European Union Trump welcomed Nawrocki to the White House during the campaign which Nawrocki won and again this month Some European leaders and officials believe that Trump is pressing for regime change in Europe They see the Americans as aiming to replace governments of the center left and center right with coalitions of the far right that align with their ideas of nations They cite American incursions in elections meetings of Trump allies with similarly minded European legislators Trump efforts to undercut European regulations Trump interference in Greenland a territory of the NATO ally Denmark and attacks on French and Romanian courts for decisions that went against far right presidential candidates While Russia interferes secretly in European elections they said they considered the Trump open intrusions in domestic politics a violation of norms among allies Senior European officials nonetheless want to keep Washington on their side for security reasons European leaders who publicly flatter Trump and Vance are privately furious about their interventions in domestic affairs Sabine Weyand a European Union trade official said recently that European concessions on trade were not based on negotiation but on fear the need to maintain security cooperation with the United States while Russia wages war in Ukraine There is a land war on the European continent and we are entirely dependent on the United States she told the Süddeutsche Zeitung daily in Germany The member states were not willing to take the risk of further escalation that would result from European countermeasures Her unhappiness was evident and is widely if privately shared among European officials who no longer believe the United States is a reliable ally The post 1945 economic order is gone forever Ms Weyand said The Heritage Foundation is building ties with groups in Europe with similar viewpoints like the Hungarian think tank the Mathias Corvinus Collegium

Poland and Russian Aggression NATO Jets How Poland Scrambled the NATO Jets to Shoot Down Russian Drones The New York Times 9 Russia Air Pollution from Wood Burning and Air Pollution from Fossil Fuel Burning contributes to Climate Change which contributes to wood burning Wildfires which contribute to Air Pollution Oil Sanctions Have Made Russian Shadow Fleet Swell The New York Times Oil Sanctions Have Made Russian Shadow Fleet Swell Restrictions have made it costlier for Russia to ship oil by sea But they have also expanded the illicit shipping economy with lasting consequences

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early in Russian war with Ukraine the West hit Russia with economic penalties aimed at strangling its profits from oil sales As Europe announces its 19th round of sanctions an uncomfortable reality has sunk in Russia quickly found a workaround to profit from oil in spite of a price cap and import restrictions By building up a huge fleet of dilapidated ships with hazy ownership that covertly shuttle its fuel to far flung markets it has managed to evade the sanctions and make money Now it is becoming increasingly clear that the vast expansion of this shadow fleet comes with serious and potentially long lasting effects **The rickety ships pose dire risks to the environment** and the trend has created a huge illicit shipping economy that some experts worry could outlast the war That could pave the way for nations to continue skirting the existing order with nations including Russia and Iran as shippers and China and India as customers A lot of people want to do the easy part impose sanctions but we have actually caused a bigger problem said Ian Ralby an expert in maritime security and founder of the research firm I R Consilium The sanctions do not put them out of business They put them out of legitimate business That does not mean that the sanctions are a mistake supporters say A former Biden administration Treasury official and an architect of the price cap pointed out that the sanctions even if imperfect cost Russia It is expensive to ship oil to India or China and to build up the shadow fleet Enforcement is the real challenge he said For now countries are applying even more sanctions to combat the shadow fleet The European Union has put more than 500 shadow fleet ships on sanction lists as of its latest announcement which makes ports more reluctant to work with them The United States Britain Canada and Australia are also going after the vessels The goal is to turn the ships into the pariahs of the sea But Russia continues to add vessels to take their place You have this dreadful expression in America Whack A Mole said the European Union EU sanctions envoy Circumvention is a bit like that Still Russia must pay for the new ships Everything we have done ends up costing them a lot more But it is an imperfect solution Shadow fleet ships have found ways around the blacklisting They offload cargoes at sea or they flag hop changing their registrations to conceal their identities Currently the West is prodding Russia to create a vast illegal economy But government officials argue that the alternative doing nothing is not a real choice China Trump Hails Progress on TikTok Deal After Call With Xi The New York Times South Korea What US Korea Ties Mean on the 75th Anniversary of the Incheon Landing The New York Times

Headlines The Guardian September 20 2025 Music United Kingdom London Studio used by Hendrix Bowie and the Stones to reopen after decades silent Music The Guardian 10 RFK Junior vaccine panel votes against recommending prescription for Covid vaccine emphasizing personal choice US news The Guardian The RFK Junior vaccine panel votes against recommending prescription for Covid vaccine emphasizing personal choice After heated meeting healthcare professionals and experts left deeply confused about committee recommendations **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian September 19 2025 15 49 EDT Share A powerful committee that advises the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC on vaccine policy voted on Friday against recommending that people obtain a prescription for a Covid 19 vaccine However the panel also voted to recommend that people speak with a clinician before obtaining the shot and that coronavirus vaccinations should be based on individual based decision making The votes on the recommendations came after hours of impassioned debate that at times devolved into confusion and apparent animosity over the committee procedures and the safety of vaccines Healthcare professionals and experts

following the committee meeting were also left deeply confused about the significance of the committee votes and recommendations and whether they would make it more difficult for people to obtain Covid vaccines. The recommendation over Covid vaccine prescriptions left the panel the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ACIP sharply divided as six members voted to adopt it while six voted to reject it. The chair Martin Kulldorff broke the tie by voting against the recommendation. Among other votes the committee also voted to recommend the CDC engages in an effort to promote more consistent and comprehensive informed consent processes including potentially highlighting six risks and uncertainties around Covid vaccines. But it offered little guidance on what this wording may look like in practice. It was also not entirely clear what individual based decision making – which the committee also called shared clinical decision making – would entail although the committee wanted the process to be different for patients under 65 and those over 65. The committee recommendations can determine which vaccines are provided free of charge through the US government shape state and local laws around vaccine requirements and influence which vaccines health insurers tend to cover. Now the committee moves are sure to further complicate the already fragmented landscape of vaccine availability. In August the Food and Drug Administration approved updated versions of the Covid 19 vaccine only for people who are 65 or older or for people who have a medical condition that renders them high risk. That move unleashed widespread bewilderment over whether young healthy people can still get vaccinated against Covid. Some pharmacy chains like CVS and Walgreens said they would require prescriptions for the vaccine or cease offering them entirely in some states. Other states including New York moved to protect access to the vaccine for people who do not have prescriptions. Trump Kirk Actions. Media giants accused of cowering to threats as Trump tries to stamp out criticism. Trump The Guardian. Trump Kirk Actions. How Trump is seizing on The Kirk killing for a campaign of vengeance. Trump The Guardian. Trump Kirk Actions. I have now been a journalist for 40 years. The forces ranged against my profession have never been so powerful. George Monbiot The Guardian. Trump Lawsuits. US attorney tasked with inquiring into Trump critics resigns after president says I want him out. US politics. The Guardian. Venezuela. Insane journeys inside the narco subs that cross oceans carrying hundreds of millions of pounds of cocaine. Drugs trade. The Guardian. Venezuela. Trump War. Trump again asks supreme court to end protections for Venezuelans in the United States. The Guardian. Poland scrambles aircraft as Russia attacks Ukraine with hundreds of drones and missiles. 11 World Air Pollution from Wood Burning and Air Pollution from Fossil Fuel Burning contributes to Climate Change which contributes to wood burning Wildfires which contribute to Air Pollution. RAWSEP View. Simon Stiell the United Nations UN Climate Chief who was interviewed for this article originally trained as an engineer at London Metropolitan University and College of North West London and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom. The home island of Simon Stiell is Carriacou which is part of Grenada in the Caribbean. Something is working. UN climate chief optimistic about green transition and Cop30 the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference to take place in Amazonia in November. The Guardian. Exclusive. Simon Stiell believes economic benefits will compel countries to speed up climate action. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The Guardian. September 20 2025. Cleaning up industry and the global economy will produce massive economic dividends for countries that grasp the opportunity – as the example of China has shown the UN climate chief has said before a crunch summit of world leaders this

week In a last ditch call to heads of government summoned to New York by the UN secretary general this week Simon Stiell the executive secretary of the UN framework convention on climate change said governments would almost certainly fail to come up with the climate commitments needed to fulfil the Paris agreement before a deadline this month but they could still reset their economies to reap the advantages of low carbon growth We are moving in the right direction he said Not fast enough not deep enough but the progress countries have made on moving to a low carbon economy is showing that something is working We need to find all the levers that are available to us to see how we can accelerate further On Wednesday on the sidelines of the UN general assembly Stiell and the UN secretary general António Guterres will make a final plea to world leaders excluding Trump who is snubbing the meeting to present national plans on the climate before the Cop30 climate summit in Brazil in November These plans known as nationally determined contributions NDCs are required under the Paris agreement to set out how countries will limit global temperature rises to 1 point 5 degrees Centigrade above preindustrial levels beyond which the impacts of the climate crisis become catastrophic and irreversible The deadline for the plans which cover the next crucial decade of greenhouse gas emissions was meant to be February this year but in the midst of Trump taking office and global political upheaval Stiell extended it to the end of this month At that point the UN will assess the NDCs and judge whether they fulfil the Paris aims Stiell knows the NDCs will fall short of the 1 point 5 Centigrade target as many countries are likely to present inadequate responses These include the US Russia and Saudi Arabia all of which have sought to disrupt recent climate talks But there are also significant concerns over the plans of other big emitters such as China and the EU which outwardly profess commitment to the climate Simon Stiell We have this perception that we need to solve all aspects of the climate crisis in a single Cop Despite the roaring successes of China in the green economy with renewable energy now generating a quarter of electricity electric vehicles now taking 50 percent market share and booming exports of low carbon goods worth 177 billion dollars 131 billion pounds last year China is widely expected to submit an NDC that is much weaker than it should be and over conservative in its estimates of how fast the country can drive down its emissions This is partly because of the Beijing perennial desire to under promise and overdeliver but also out of caution faced with the volatility of The Trump White House The EU for decades the champion of climate action is mired in internal tension among member states spooked by a seeming backlash from the populist right The bloc has still not finalized its NDC and will not meet the end of month deadline but this week issued a statement of intent from ministers for a cut of between 66 point 25 percent and 72 point percent by 2035 compared with 1990 levels This is weaker than the 79 percent or more campaigners had hoped for and that experts say is possible Stientje van Veldhoven regional director for Europe at the World Resources Institute warned if the EU lands on the lower end of the range like 66 point 3 percent the final stretch to 90 percent just five years later will be a steep and uphill climb Australia set out its NDC last week pledging to cut emissions by 62 to 70 percent by 2035 That is also too low compared to the 75 percent cut analysts said would be in line with a 1 point 5 degrees Centigrade limit and the failure to agree a full phase out of fossil fuels angered green groups Australia is bidding against Turkey to host the Cop31 summit next year Yet Stiell believes Cop30 can still be a success if it can point the way to remedying the shortcomings and investing in the benefits of a green economic transformation We know the NDCs are going to be softer than what science dictates is needed he said at the UN climate headquarters in Bonn But it is about how the real economy picks up those signals In the real economy he pointed to global private sector investments last year of more

than 2 trillion dollars in green energy and low carbon industry dwarfing the 1 trillion dollars poured into fossil fuels I see promise I see action he said I see tangible output But not enough It is easy to look at the UN annual Cops and say nothing happens in the words of Greta Thunberg blah blah blah But before the 2015 Paris agreement the world was headed for more than 5 degrees Centigrade C of heating a level that would leave the world unrecognizable Ten years later the projection if all current commitments are fulfilled is for 2 point 7 degrees Centigrade of heating That is still far too high and the 2025 NDCs must at least bend the curve towards 1 point 5 degrees Centigrade Stiell said even if they still fall short of meeting it People should see the Cops as a process rather than having too high expectations of any single meeting he believes We have this perception that we need to solve all aspects of the climate crisis in a single Cop We set false expectations that everything needs to be resolved in that given moment Stiell also wants the UN to change tack away from the dire warnings of calamity that have frequently fallen on deaf ears among governments grappling with economic woes Instead he will present concrete examples of how governments such as China have gained access to billions in investment and reaped bumper profits by turning to clean energy and a green transformation We have only been telling a partial story he said We have been speaking about the impacts on lives livelihoods It does not get into other elements the economic benefits of taking climate action and what this means in terms of jobs food security water security What does this mean in terms of better health better livelihoods? Looking at those opportunities and the economic growth that can be stimulated through strong climate action and how that impacts economic development and growth Countries are also beginning to wake up to the costs of inaction too he believes Hikes in the cost of living around the world have been exacerbated by food price rises resulting from extreme weather Wealthy regions including areas of the US and the UK have had homes and businesses become uninsurable which is an experience that until recently was confined to poorer and vulnerable regions The bill for climate damage already runs to hundreds of billions of dollars a year and is getting higher Within little more than a decade costs of more than 5 percent of GDP a year are likely to bite That means significant recession If inflation in the last four years has toppled governments and lost votes for incumbent parties the effects of the climate crisis on the cost of living will be much more dramatic Stiell said We have seen the impact of the price of eggs and how that was singled out as a barometer of skewed economic policy and mismanagement Multiply that across every single item that you purchase the food you eat the clothes you wear the vehicle you drive the cost of heating or cooling your home Compared with that Covid and the global financial crisis would pale into insignificance he said Governments who choose to ignore this financial advisers and economists who chose to ignore this do so at their peril Stiell understands the effects of the climate crisis firsthand Last year Hurricane Beryl ripped through his home island of Carriacou part of Grenada in the Caribbean The devastation mirrored other events that he has seen in countries around the world That burns deep inside of me he says There is anger there is frustration within that His challenge is presenting what is at stake at Cop30 the complexities of the UN process and the warnings of scientists in terms that resonate with the global public Stiell said Just raising an alarm is not enough it has to be rung in a way that translates beyond numbers on a spreadsheet and is understood by ordinary people consumers and voters But then the flip side is I also see opportunities I see hope I see resilience The grit of humankind is empowering