



Wisconsin Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics 
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®


Wisconsin Medical Society



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Statement on Vaccines and Autism by Key Wisconsin Public Health Advocates

Oconomowoc, WI – Leading public health advocates in Wisconsin are issuing a strong statement in response to recent public remarks raising concerns about a supposed link between vaccines and autism.

“Vaccines do not cause autism,” said Dr. Betsy Peterson, president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP), who provides immunizations for patients according to the schedule endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).¹ “Vaccines are safe, effective, and keep children, families, and communities healthy. Further, there is no scientific evidence proving that acetaminophen use in pregnancy causes autism or other developmental conditions in children.”

Katie Hess, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin, agrees. “Decades of credible, scientific research have repeatedly affirmed the safety of vaccines. There is no credible evidence linking vaccines to autism.”² Supporting vaccination efforts among families affected by autism, her organization provides education and collaborative, sensory-friendly clinics to provide access to a calm, supportive, and inclusive vaccine experience.

Dr. Margaret Hennessy, a pediatrician and co-chair of Immunize Wisconsin, says she discusses with families in detail the decision to vaccinate their children, including questions around possible links between vaccines and autism. She has concerns about recent comments. “Disinformation from our public leaders is causing a lot of confusion and is risking the health and well-being of our children.”

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¹ Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 and Younger, United States, 2025, <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>

² Comprehensive list of studies and results, Autism Speaks, <https://www.autismspeaks.org/do-vaccines-cause-autism>

Reporters following up on the White House event on autism on Monday, Sept. 22, may have questions that American Academy of Pediatrics can help answer. Below are some resources that offer evidence-based recommendations and information that are also contained in [this AAP statement](#). Please contact Kia Kjensrud, kkjensrud@wiaap.org, if you are interested in connecting with a pediatric expert for an interview.

- [Acetaminophen is Safe for Children When Taken as Directed, No Link to Autism](#)
- [HealthyChildren.org article on autism, including leucovorin](#)
- [Fact Checked article on vaccines and autism](#)
- [HealthyChildren.org article on acetaminophen dosing for children](#)
- [Fact Checked article on measles vaccine](#)
- [Fact Checked article on pediatrician payments](#)
- [Fact Checked article on Hepatitis B vaccine](#)
- [Fact Checked article on childhood obesity](#)
- [Fact checked article on thimerosal](#)
- [Fact checked article on aluminum and other ingredients](#)