

## NHMA Statement on ACIP's December 2025 Decision on Newborn Hepatitis B Vaccination

**WASHINGTON, December 5, 2025** — NHMA is strongly concerned with the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' \(ACIP\) decision](#) today to recommend delaying, rather than universally administering, the first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine for newborns whose mothers test negative. This is a radical departure from more than 30 years of sound public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The science is clear: vaccines save lives. This rollback endangers our children, particularly in Latino and other underserved communities. It also undermines decades of progress in preventing chronic diseases, such as liver disease, cancer and death.

Delaying the vaccine also compromises a proven safety net that protects infants from perinatal transmission.

We know from science-driven data that:

- [\*Latinos were 30% more likely to die from viral hepatitis than non-Hispanic whites in 2020.\*](#)
- While acute hepatitis B rates have [\*historically been lower among some groups, reported acute cases increased among Latinos between 2022 and 2023,\*](#) the only major racial/ethnic group to experience a rise.
- Minority populations have long [\*faced disparities in screening, diagnosis and access to follow-up care for chronic hepatitis B,\*](#) 66% of individuals who were unaware of being infected.

By weakening the universal birth-dose recommendation, ACIP risks widening these disparities. Many parents, particularly in immigrant, low-income and historically marginalized communities, may lack regular access to prenatal testing, follow-up and continuity of care or clear guidance from providers. Any decision to delay or forgo the birth dose will disproportionately harm communities already facing barriers to care.

Until such a reversal happens, NHMA urges all medical professionals, birthing hospitals and community health centers to reaffirm the universal birth-dose practice. We stand ready to support educational outreach and culturally competent communication to ensure every child receives protection from preventable diseases.