



August 24, 2026

Cynthia Goss

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (Health Policy)
Performing the Delegable Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Submitted electronically

Re: Request to Extend the Comment Period to October 23, 2026; Docket No. HHS–OS–2026–0332, *Request for Information: Categories Used in Federal Vaccine Recommendations and the Role of Shared Clinical Decision-Making*

Dear Ms. Goss,

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing more than 124,500 family physicians and medical students nationwide, **I respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extend the comment period for the above-referenced Request for Information (RFI) from September 30, 2026 to October 23, 2026.**

This initial response is procedural only and does not address the questions in the RFI. The RFI notice seeks input on the categories used in federal vaccine recommendations and a broad range of related considerations, including the strength and availability of scientific evidence, approaches to decision-making when evidence is limited, the legal and clinical aspects of recommendation categories, and practices for communicating recommendations.

All of these questions are highly consequential for physicians, patients and other stakeholders. Developing a meaningful response will require AAFP to review relevant evidence and consult family physicians practicing in a range of clinical settings and communities. Family physicians care for patients across the lifespan and play a central role in interpreting vaccine recommendations, discussing them with patients and families, and operationalizing them into clinical practice.

The notice was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 2026 with a deadline of September 20, 2026. As such, stakeholders will have less than 30 days following publication to evaluate the RFI and respond. Extending the deadline to October 23 would provide approximately 60 days following publication and would improve stakeholders' ability to

1133 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 1100
Washington, DC 20036-1011

info@aafp.org
(800) 794-7481
(202) 232-9033

www.aafp.org



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provide HHS with thoughtful and informed feedback. For these reasons, the AAFP respectfully requests that HHS extend the comment deadline for Docket No. HHS-OS-2026-0332 to October 23, 2026 and announce the extension as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Julie Riley, Manager, Legislative Affairs at jriley@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP
American Academy of Family Physicians, Board Chair