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Vaccine Integrity Project Details Scope and Methods for Independent Review of HPV Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The Vaccine Integrity Project, based at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), today provided additional details on its ongoing independent review of the safety and effectiveness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, including the methods and scope that will guide the assessment.

The review will build upon the most recent Cochrane systematic reviews of HPV vaccines, which spanned from 2000 through 2024. Mirroring Cochrane’s approach, the project will leverage clearly defined inclusion criteria, structured assessment of bias, and consistent evaluation of safety and effectiveness outcomes. By extending this framework to include newly published studies through 2025, the Project’s review will update the most comprehensive existing assessment with conclusions that reflect the full and current body of high-quality evidence.

The Vaccine Integrity Project will first evaluate evidence on vaccine safety outcomes and serious adverse events, then analyze effectiveness and durability of protection. The Project anticipates releasing the synthesis of these data beginning next month.

The findings of this review will be made publicly available to inform clinicians, policymakers, medical societies, and the public.

“At a moment when claims about the HPV vaccine are increasingly divorced from the evidence, it is essential to return to the full body of high-quality data,” said CIDRAP Director Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH. “By grounding our work in the same rigorous framework used by Cochrane, and extending it to include the most recent research, we aim to provide a clear, comprehensive, and credible assessment of what the science actually shows about the HPV vaccine’s safety and effectiveness.”

The HPV vaccine has been shown to dramatically reduce infections with high-risk HPV types responsible for most cervical and other HPV-related cancers. However, recent policy changes and public statements by federal officials - made without transparent reviews or citations of the underlying evidence - have undermined the vaccine. The Vaccine Integrity Project’s review is intended to ensure that any discussion of HPV vaccine policy is informed by a comprehensive and objective evaluation of the publicly available published data.

The HPV review builds on the Vaccine Integrity Project’s recent independent assessments of the hepatitis B birth dose and of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines. That latter [analysis](#), published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, underscored the importance of rigorous, transparent evaluation of the evidence for immunization against common respiratory illness at a time of increasing pressure on evidence-based immunization policy.

Established in April 2025, the Vaccine Integrity Project provides independent, science-based reviews of vaccine safety and effectiveness to support informed decision-making and public trust in immunization policy.

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