

# **RETHINKING VACCINE POLICY**

## **A CASE FOR HUMILITY, PRECISION, AND PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP**

---

### **TOP TAKEAWAYS**

#### **Vaccines Are Important, But Not All Are Equal**

- Vaccines represent one of medicine's most important tools for preventing disease and have contributed significantly to public health over the past century.
- Despite these successes, our approach to vaccine policy, which differs from other Western countries both with more vaccines, more requirements, and earlier administration, has evolved in ways that have undermined both public trust and optimal health outcomes.
- Some vaccines prevent highly contagious and dangerous diseases where individual choice directly affects the safety of others—these may warrant stronger societal expectations and, in some cases, may appropriately include requirements.
- Others, however, primarily offer individual protection against diseases that are not casually spread or are extremely rare in childhood.
- In such cases, sweeping mandates—especially those tied to school access—can do more harm than good, undermining trust without delivering meaningful public health gains.
- A thoughtful vaccine policy must distinguish between these categories and be grounded in a transparent framework that considers communicability, disease severity, timing of exposure, immune system development, and the effectiveness of the intervention.

#### **A Path Forward: Aligning Science, Biology, and Public Trust**

- Current vaccination policy increasingly undermines its own objectives by treating all vaccines as equivalent community protection measures.

- Distinguishing between vaccines that genuinely require community participation and those that primarily protect individuals can focus policy resources where they matter most while addressing legitimate concerns about timing, necessity, and individual risk assessment.
- Evidence suggests that schedule modifications aligned with immune system development and actual disease risk patterns could reduce aluminum exposure during critical developmental windows while maintaining protection when it is needed.
- Make available, once again, single-antigen vaccines for all Category 1 vaccines. This will enable parents to be more selective, without completely opting out of important vaccines.
- Doctors and policymakers must honestly acknowledge what different vaccines do and don't accomplish. This will build more sustainable foundations for vaccination programs than overstating the collective benefits of particular vaccines and the absolute need for universal participation.

*The information provided in this paper is for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice.*



Use this **QR code** to read the full paper.