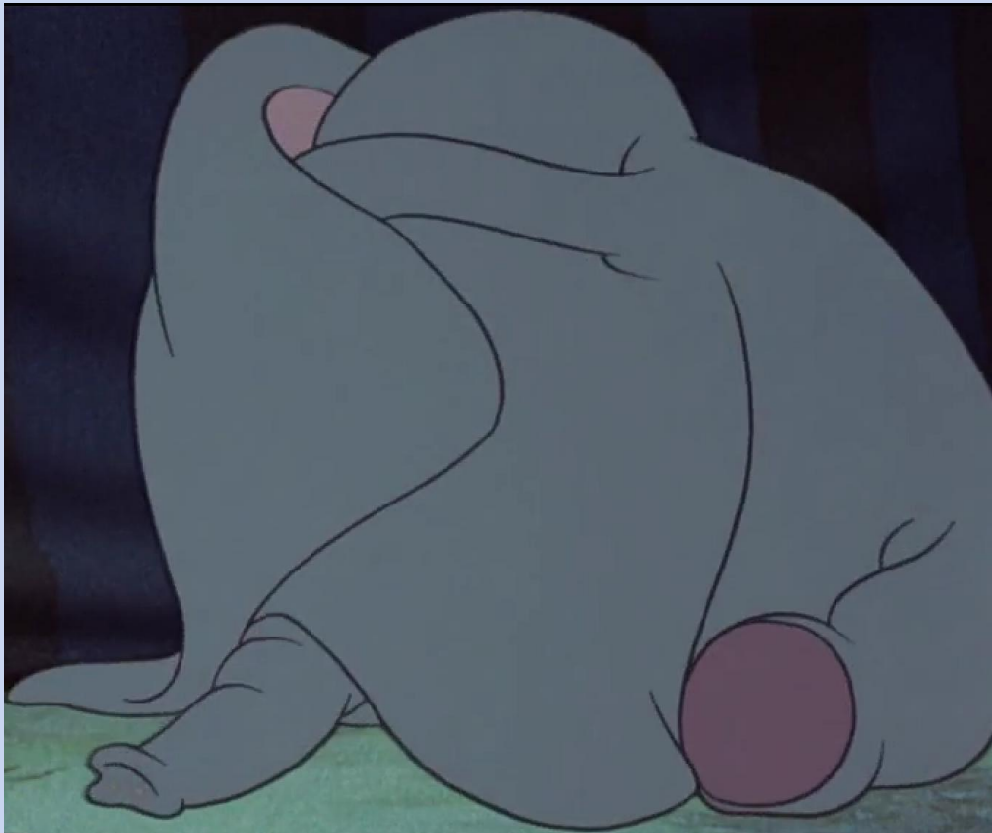


# Sticking With Patients' Health

The latest on vaccine recommendations  
and potential implications on your practice

Matt Dowling, Lobbyist & Director, Public Affairs

Rachel Hauser, Director, Public Health



# Mixed Messaging

“Doctors break with CDC on vaccine guidance for children” – NBC News

“Experts to Publish Alternative Maternal Vax Recommendations” – MedPage Today

“Defying CDC, Pediatricians Recommend All Kids Get Vaccinations Against 18 Diseases” – Wall Street Journal

“Doctors are ignoring new federal vaccine recommendations” – CNN

“US cuts the number of vaccines recommended for every child, a move slammed by physicians” – The Guardian

# Changes to CDC Childhood Vaccine Recommendations

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- MMRV
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- COVID-19
- Seasonal Influenza

# Changes to CDC Childhood Vaccine Recommendations

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- MMRV
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- COVID-19
- Seasonal Influenza

## Recommended for Certain High-Risk Groups of Populations

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal (ACWY and B)
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.html>

# Changes to CDC Childhood Vaccine Recommendations

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- MMRV
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory Syncytial
- COVID-19
- Seasonal Influenza

## Recommended Based on Shared Clinical Decision-Making

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- Rotavirus
- COVID-19
- Seasonal Influenza

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.html>

# Shared Clinical Decision-Making

“Unlike routine, catch-up, and risk-based recommendations, shared clinical decision-making vaccinations are not recommended for everyone in a particular age group or everyone in an identifiable risk group. Rather, **shared clinical decision-making recommendations are individually based and informed by a decision process between the health care provider and the patient or parent/guardian.**

... the decision about whether or not to vaccinate **may be informed by** the best available evidence of who may benefit from vaccination; the individual’s characteristics, values, and preferences; the health care provider’s clinical discretion; and the characteristics of the vaccine being considered. There is not a prescribed set of considerations or decision points in the decision-making process.”

# Recommended for All Children by CDC

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Acellular Pertussis
- Haemophilus influenza type b
- Pneumococcal conjugate
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Human Papillomavirus\*
- Varicella

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.html>

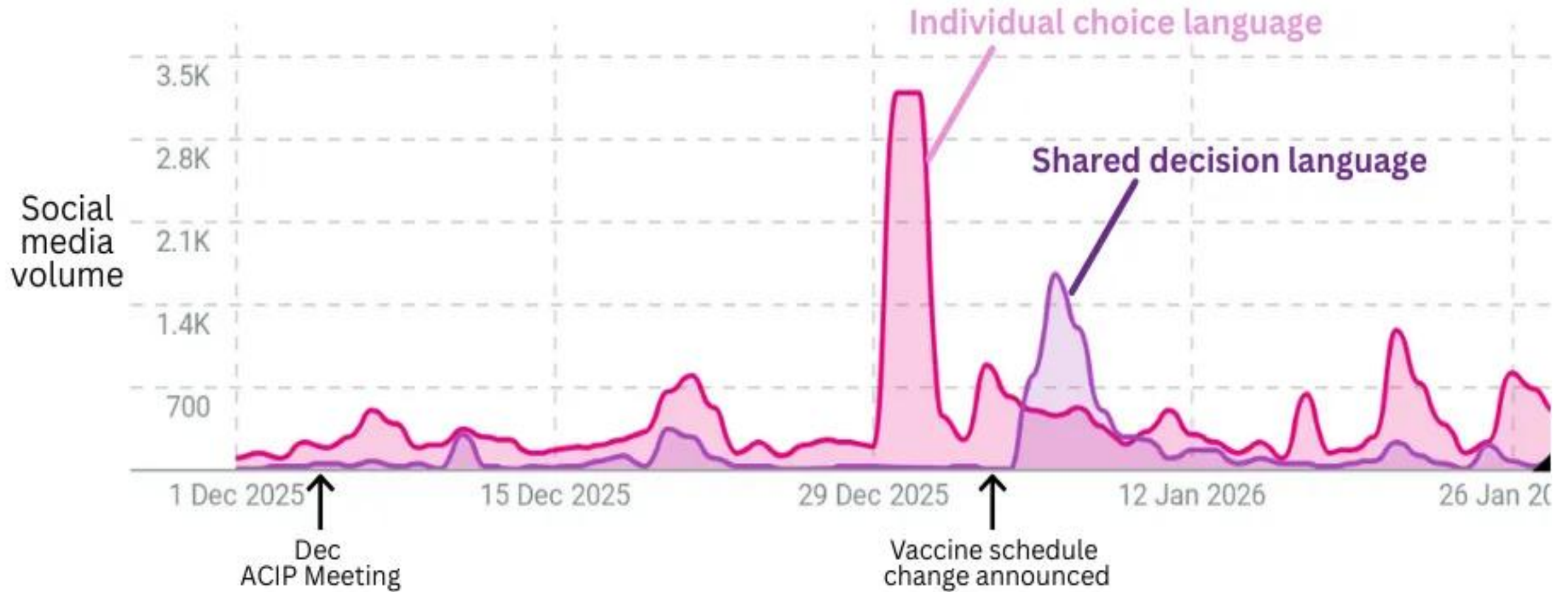
# Changes to CDC Childhood Vaccine Recommendations

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- MMRV
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- COVID-19
- Seasonal Influenza

## MMRV

- **CDC** recommends that children 12 months – 3 years old receive the MMR and Varicella vaccines separately.
- **AAP** and **AAFP** note parent/caregiver preference for administering either MMR + Varicella or MMRV for the first dose in the series.

# Public Intake and Perception



[https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/shared-decision-making-informed-consent?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=email&triedRedirect=true](https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/shared-decision-making-informed-consent?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&triedRedirect=true)

# Venturing a Little Into the Weeds

A recent poll of US adults found that:

- **68%** understand that shared clinical decision-making includes a review of medical history with a health care provider
- **42%** said it's up to the individual whether to consult with a health care provider on deciding to receive a vaccine
- **22%** believe shared clinical decision-making means that the vaccine may not be a good choice for everyone and only benefits some



<https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/aw26-do05-topline-v2.pdf>

# What Hasn't Changed?

- Informed Consent
- Vaccine Injury Compensation Program
- Documentation Requirements
- Insurance Coverage of Childhood Vaccines
- Vaccines for Children Program\*
- The science on safety and effectiveness on available vaccines

# What can be done?

- Get familiar with local epi and vaccine exemption rates
- Vocabulary
- Documentation
- Code for vaccine counseling
- Know your rights
- Share your story
- Advocate!

# New: CPT Codes for Vaccine Counseling

Effective January 1, 2026, the following codes can be used when a vaccine is **not** administered:

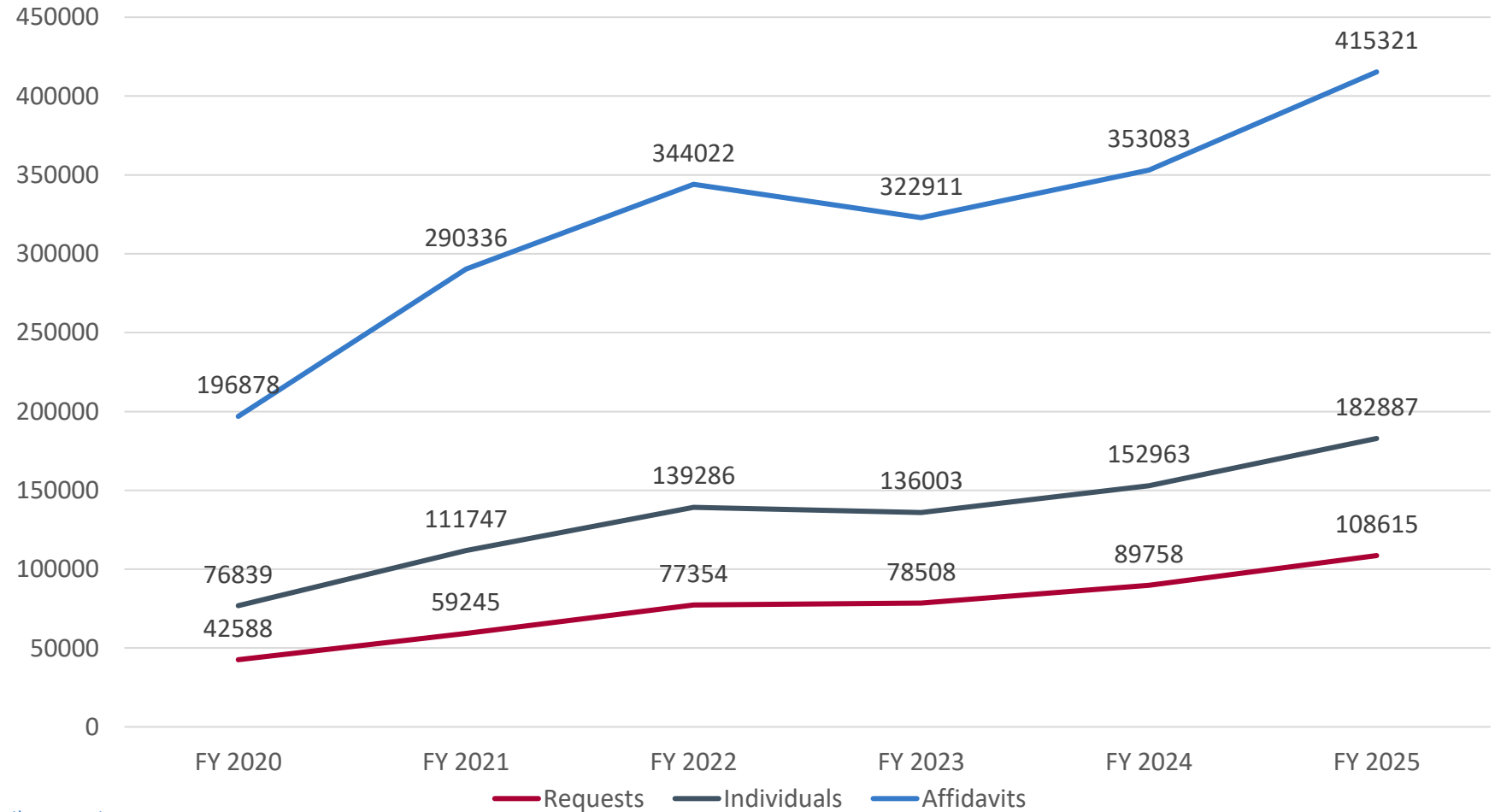
CPT Code	Immunization counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional when immunization(s) is not administered by provider on the same date of service for
90482	3 minutes up to 10 minutes
90483	greater than 10 minutes up to 20 minutes
90484	greater than 20 minutes

# 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: What We Saw?

- Over 50 immunization bills filed
- Antagonistic to vaccines from all angles:
  - Rollback or removal of guidelines for schools, healthcare workers
  - Making school exemptions easier and limiting data collection
  - Additional liability and possible fines for physicians
  - Redundant “informed consent” steps

# Immunizations in Texas

The affidavit for school required vaccine exemptions is available online as a printable form, in addition to mail-in or in-person requests



<https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/diseases/vaccine-conscientious-exemption-requests>

# SLPS Comments

- Brought in specialty societies and county medical societies to discuss issues facing medicine and possible ideas for the next legislative session.
- Had an open mic for anyone to speak and provide input or ideas

# 90<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: What Might Be Coming?

- Removal of ability to have kids stay at home during an outbreak
- Rollback of vaccines required for school and healthcare to align with CDC recommendations
- More redundant “informed consent” steps before administering vaccines to align with CDC recommendations

**We Want to Hear From You:**



## How Can TMA Help

- Updating resources on TMA vaccine and ID webpages
- Collaboration with Texas Public Health Coalition
- Vaccines Defend What Matters
- Monitoring ACIP, VICP, how other states are responding
- Continuing to listen to physicians

# TMA



- **Matt Dowling, Director, Public Affairs**  
[Matt.dowling@texmed.org](mailto:Matt.dowling@texmed.org)
- **Rachel Hauser, Director, Public Health**  
[Rachel.hauser@texmed.org](mailto:Rachel.hauser@texmed.org)

## Questions?



# We're Not Throwing Away Our Shots