

RFK Jr. Sued by Doctors Over Abrupt Changes to Covid Vaccine Guidance

By [Rachel Cohrs Zhang](#) - Bloomberg

July 7, 2025 at 12:30 PM EDT

Organizations representing pediatricians and public health experts [sued](#) Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. over his decision to unilaterally change government recommendations on Covid shots for healthy children and pregnant women earlier this year.

The plaintiffs include large, influential medical bodies such as the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), the [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#), the [American College of Physicians](#), the [American Public Health Association](#) and the Society for Maternal—Fetal Medicine, challenged Kennedy's decision on the basis that it was arbitrary and capricious and violated the legal structure Congress set up for vaccine recommendations. An unidentified pregnant woman also joined the suit, filed Monday.

On May 27, Kennedy [announced](#) on social media that the federal government was changing its Covid vaccine recommendations for healthy children and pregnant women. Agency websites [updated days later](#) showed the Covid vaccine would no longer be recommended for pregnant women, and that parents of healthy children would be advised to speak with their doctors about the shots.

Typically, such changes are reviewed and recommended by an outside panel of vaccine advisers that considers input from physicians' groups. Kennedy bypassed that panel. He later [fired all its existing members](#) and replaced them with his own handpicked members, [including one who claimed](#) Covid shots cause AIDS.

By changing the government's advice on Covid vaccines, Kennedy made it uncertain whether insurers will [pay for the shots](#). Typically, insurance companies fully cover vaccines recommended by the government's expert panel, known as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Coverage is patchier for shots given at the discretion of doctors and parents.

"Unless the secretary's baseless and uninformed policy decision is vacated, pregnant women, their unborn children, and, in fact, all children remain at grave and immediate risk of contracting a preventable disease," the complaint states.

HHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Besides Kennedy, Food and Drug Administration head Marty Makary and [National Institutes of Health](#) Director Jay Bhattacharya were also named as defendants in the lawsuit. Makary and Bhattacharya appeared alongside Kennedy in the social media video announcing the vaccine policy change.

The suit, which was filed in the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, is American Academy of Pediatrics v. Kennedy, 25-cv-11916.

