



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

**Statement of Mark M. Davis, Ph.D., President
of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI),
in recognition of National Immunization Awareness Month
August 1, 2022**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the largest professional association of immunologists in the nation, strongly supports the use of vaccines to prevent disease.

Vaccination is critically important and one of the best tools we have to prevent disease and severe illness. Widespread immunization has led to the eradication of smallpox worldwide, the [elimination of polio in the United States](#), and the prevention of debilitating and sometimes deadly infectious diseases like measles. Despite this extraordinary success, [global vaccine administration has plateaued](#) within the last decade, partly because of the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

AAI wants the public to know that vaccines approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are safe, effective, and crucial to individual and public health. We strongly urge adherence to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) recommended immunization schedules](#) by both children and adults.

The amazing power of vaccines to positively impact our lives is exemplified by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Safe, effective vaccines against COVID-19 saved an [estimated](#) 14.4 million lives globally during just one year of this pandemic and will continue to prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death for millions more. AAI strongly supports the use of these and other vaccines to prevent the spread of harmful infectious diseases and protect the health of the public.