



**Comments to the Vaccines and Related Biologic Products Advisory Committee
(VRBPAC)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Docket No: FDA-2026-N-3962**

Submitted electronically on May 20, 2026

The National Consumers League (NCL) is America’s oldest consumer advocacy organization, dedicated to advancing consumer protections in healthcare, food safety, child labor, and privacy. NCL advocates for access to more affordable healthcare, including policies that increase public access to and confidence in vaccines and other forms of preventive health measures. It is in continuing to fulfill that work that we submit these comments to VRBPAC.

VRBPAC’s deliberations and recommendations regarding the 2026-2027 COVID-19 vaccine strains will play an important role in ensuring Americans maintain timely access to updated vaccines throughout the respiratory virus season. COVID-19 vaccines have saved millions of lives and remain a cost-effective preventive measure for both patients and the healthcare system.¹ However, public trust in vaccines has continued to decline, particularly regarding vaccine safety.² Maintaining public confidence in vaccines depends on VRBPAC’s continued commitment to transparency and scientific integrity, as well as the credibility and consistency of the broader regulatory framework and the agencies responsible for overseeing it. With that in mind, we are extremely concerned about news reports that the FDA blocked several studies examining the safety of vaccines against COVID-19 and shingles,³ which could have helped address public concerns about vaccine safety and counter narratives that fuel growing skepticism.

NCL urges FDA to continue its longstanding practice of releasing materials, including presentations and supporting analyses, in advance of VRBPAC’s meeting.

¹ [Cost-Effectiveness of 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccination in US Adults | JAMA Network Open](#)

² [Many Americans express doubt about vaccines, POLITICO Poll finds | Politico](#)

³ [FDA Blocked Publication of Research Finding Covid and Shingles Vaccines Were Safe | New York Times](#)

Providing the public with timely access to the scientific evidence informing vaccine decisions reinforces confidence in both the process and resulting recommendations. The work of VRBPAC must also continue to be firmly grounded in apolitical, expert, and evidenced-based advice on vaccine development.

NCL appreciates the opportunity to provide input on these important issues. As VRBPAC continues its work on seasonal vaccine strain selection, maintaining a transparent, scientifically rigorous, and credible regulatory process will remain essential to preserving public confidence in vaccines and continued access to them.

Sincerely,

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