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DPHSS Statement Regarding Changes to Childhood Vaccine Schedules

Hagatna, Guam – In response to the U.S. Centers for Disease (CDC) updated Childhood Immunization Schedule announced by the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), issues the following statement:

DPHSS continues to stand by child and adolescent immunization schedule produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). DPHSS advises health care providers and families to follow these schedules.

The underlying scientific evidence remains unchanged and continues to support the full AAP and AAFP vaccination schedules for children. Families should still be able to access the full range of childhood immunizations as recommended by the AAP and AAFP to protect their children from serious diseases.

The U.S. Health and Human Services stated in its announcement that all vaccines, including those moved to shared clinical decision-making, remain covered with no out-of-pocket cost by Affordable Care Act-regulated private insurance plans and federal coverage programs such as Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children program.

The recent changes may cause uncertainty among families and healthcare providers regarding school vaccination requirements, clinical processes, and the availability of combination vaccines. DPHSS will continue to issue science-based guidance to safeguard the health of Guam's community.

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