

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



amcno
THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF
CLEVELAND & NORTHERN OHIO



Ohio Children's Hospital Association
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

Ohio Chapter

immunizeohio.org



Ohio College Health Association



children's
defense fund
ohio



OHIO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



dayton children's



University Hospitals



Rainbow Babies & Children's



Akron
Children's
Hospital



CHARITABLE
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Ohio: Stronger. Healthier. Together.



OHIO
OSTEOPATHIC
ASSOCIATION



OHIO
NAPNAP



OAAPN

Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses

Ohio
State Medical
Association



PA4V Parents Advocating
for Vaccines



OPHA
Ohio Public Health Association
The Voice of Public Health

July 1st, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor
State of Ohio
77 South High Street
30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Urgent Updates Needed to Ohio's School Entry Immunization Protocols

Dear Governor DeWine,

The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the undersigned organizations, representing over 3 million Ohioans, jointly affirm the value, safety, and effectiveness of vaccines in preventing serious illness and saving lives.

Immunization has been called one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century in improving the health and life expectancy of people living in the U.S.¹ COVID-19 has demonstrated the need to update the methods of health care delivery and the public health imperative for accurate record keeping of individuals immunized with recommended vaccines. Recently, we have seen a dramatic drop-off in childhood immunizations increasing the risk that Ohioans may see outbreaks of other vaccine preventable diseases.

In an effort to evaluate compliance with herd immunity, a standard form should exist for all school districts to use which requires that a physician—or other licensed healthcare provider—sign the form for all required immunizations for entry to Kindergarten and grades 7 and 12. This form should be developed and provided by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Similarly, a standard form for daycare facilities should be reinstated and Ohio should require ACIP recommended vaccines for college and university students who are living on campus. A standardized form is needed since there are many variations of forms by school districts making it difficult to reconcile immunization records.

Conversations with a healthcare provider are essential to ensure that parents have all the appropriate medical and scientific information prior to making informed and educated health care decisions such as immunizing their child. Data should be streamlined and publicly reported so public health officials, parents of immuno-compromised children, and other stakeholders will know the opt-out rate at each school building. Families with an immune-compromised child will then have the information they need to make an informed decision about the school environment for their medically fragile child.

We encourage you to direct the Ohio Department of Health to utilize the power granted under ORC 3701.13 to develop a standardized immunization form to be utilized by daycares and school districts to collect information related to immunizations against the diseases specified in ORC 3313.671 and any other information deemed necessary by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health related to immunization and health status. We need to improve the vaccine infrastructure for daycare attendees and students in K-12 grade in the State of Ohio, especially if a COVID-19 vaccine should become available, to ensure we have good public health data to make decisions should an outbreak occur and provide parents the confidence that their child(ren) are in the safest educational environment.

By following these criteria, we aim to assure that no child or adult in Ohio suffer needlessly from a disease that is preventable through immunization. Thank you for your leadership during this extraordinary time in Ohio history and your lifelong commitment to Ohio's children. We stand ready to support you on this important initiative.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration—

Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio
Ohio Children's Hospital Association
ImmunizeOhio
Ohio College Health Association
Children's Defense Fund Ohio
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
Dayton Children's Hospital
UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Charitable Healthcare Network

Ohio Pharmacists Association
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio Association of Advance Practice Nurses
Ohio Public Health Association
Parents Advocating for Vaccines
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Akron Children's Hospital
Teens Advocating for Vaccines

¹ Ten Great Public Health Achievements — United States, 1900-1999. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 1999;48(12):241-243.