

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 11.2022-24
(A-23)**

Introduced by: George P. Beranek, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Opposing Child COVID Immunization Requirement for Illinois School Attendance

Referred to: Council on Medical Service

1 Whereas, ISMS has no policy regarding the requirement of COVID
2 immunization for children to attend school in Illinois; and

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4 Whereas, a CDC advisory committee has voted to add the COVID vaccine to the
5 recommended immunization schedule for children to attend school; and

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7 Whereas, vaccine requirements for school children are governed by state and
8 local jurisdictions; therefore, be it

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10 RESOLVED, that ISMS adopt a policy to oppose the COVID immunization
11 requirement to attend school in Illinois; and be it further

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13 RESOLVED, that ISMS write a public letter to Gov. Pritzker opposing
14 mandatory requirement of COVID immunization for Illinois school children.

Fiscal Note:

None

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

The Illinois State Medical Society supports the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health. (2021 Annual Meeting; BOT 2021-JAN; Last BOT Review 2021)

The Illinois State Medical Society advocates the equitable distribution of vaccines and the employment of community-specific strategies for education and distribution to ensure adequate access to all populations. (2021 Annual Meeting; BOT 2021-JAN; Last BOT Review 2021)

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ISMS affirmed the Board's adoption of Resolution 12.2018-10 (A-19), Policy Change to School Immunization Requirements, which states: RESOLVED, that ISMS policy be changed by making the following deletion and addition: "Illinois residents should be provided access to all medically indicated immunizations. Physicians are requested to provide this protection or to encourage the local public health agency to perform this function, and to encourage enforcement of current immunization laws. In addition, physicians should be encouraged to participate in epidemiological studies (especially as related to "search and destroy" methods for communicable diseases) which have been endorsed by the local or state medical society. ISMS continues to support the need for physical examinations of, and updating of immunizations for, school children in the State of Illinois on school entry, at 5th 6th grade and 9th grade levels, in keeping with preventive medicine measures presently in existence in the state. Measures to assure compliance of the school health mandates by school districts in Illinois should be maintained. Every school district should be consulted by health departments planning any mass immunization campaign. In counties where there is no public health department, the Illinois Department of Public Health should contact either the county medical society or local physicians (whichever is appropriate) for coordination of the immunization program. If private facilities are utilized during a mass immunization campaign, normal reimbursement procedures may be employed, but no charge shall be made for the cost of vaccine paid for by the federal government." (2019 Annual Meeting)

ISMS urges health care workers to protect patient safety by being immunized against vaccine-preventable illnesses, and opposes termination of health care workers from employment solely due to their declination of the influenza vaccine. (HOD 2018)

ISMS encourages physicians to be immunized for vaccine-preventable diseases, if not medically contraindicated. (HOD 2013; Last BOT Review 2014)

ISMS supports expanding Illinois' Immunization Code to include the pneumococcal vaccine for daycare entry. (HOD 2012; Last BOT Review 2014)

ISMS does not support a state mandate of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) vaccinations as a condition for attending school and supports the use and administration of HPV vaccine as recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. (HOD 2008; Last BOT Review 2014)

Board of Trustees endorsed HBV as a basic childhood vaccine for children born after January 1, 1993, for the Vaccines for Children program. (BOT 1995-JUN)

It is the policy of the Society to acknowledge a National Vaccine Initiative for Adults; support efforts of the Illinois Department of Public Health in disseminating information to all physicians in Illinois regarding the benefits of immunization; and to encourage the adoption of a standard personal and institutional immunization record as a means of verifying the immunization status of patients and staff. (HOD 1992; Last BOT Review 2014)

Illinois residents should be provided access to all medically indicated immunizations. Physicians are requested to provide this protection or to encourage the local public health agency to perform this function, and to encourage enforcement of current immunization laws. In addition, physicians should be encouraged to participate in epidemiological studies (especially as related to “search and destroy” methods for communicable diseases) which have been endorsed by the local or state medical society. ISMS continues to support the need for physical examinations of, and updating of immunizations for, school children in the State of Illinois on school entry, at 6th grade and 9th grade levels, in keeping with preventive medicine measures presently in existence in the state. Measures to assure compliance of the school health mandates by school districts in Illinois should be maintained. Every school district should be consulted by health departments planning any mass immunization campaign. In counties where there is no public health department, the Illinois Department of Public Health should contact either the county medical society or local physicians (whichever is appropriate) for coordination of the immunization program. If private facilities are utilized during a mass immunization campaign, normal reimbursement procedures may be employed, but no charge shall be made for the cost of vaccine paid for by the federal government. (HOD 1991; Reaffirmed 2017; Amended 2019; Last BOT Review 2014)

The Illinois State Medical Society supports the principles for medical education as outlined in the AMA guiding principles to protect learners responding to COVID-19 document, including but not limited to (a) schools should provide reasonable accommodations to learners who are unable to participate in required coursework involving direct patient contact (b) medical students should be included in conversations as direct patient interaction activities are being explored, developed, and implemented (c) health systems and medical schools should support the wellbeing of all providers and recognize that learners face an added stressor of uncertainty about their educational

pathways (d) medical schools should work with the LCME to identify viable options to assess students' competency and meet curricular requirements in order to avoid, to the extent possible, any delay in medical students' graduation or progression in medical school. (2021 Annual Meeting; BOT 2021-JAN; Last BOT Review 2021)