

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 09.2018-03  
(A-19)**

Introduced by: Ira S. Rubin, M.D., ISMS Member

Subject: School Immunization Requirements

Referred to: Council on Medical Service

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1           Whereas, immunizations prevent significant diseases, and the State of Illinois  
2 requires children in public schools to be immunized against many infectious diseases;  
3 and

4           Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revises  
5 immunization recommendations on a yearly basis; and

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7           Whereas, the Illinois Board of Health immunization requirements don't always  
8 match the CDC standards, for example the recommended age for an MMR is 12 to 15  
9 months; and

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11           Whereas, many children are seen a day or two before their one year birthday and  
12 thus are being required to re-immunize. In this case, the CDC would allow a 2-week  
13 grace period before the one-year birthday to be acceptable practice; however, the Illinois  
14 School health code does not allow any grace period; therefore, be it

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16           RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society meet with the Illinois State  
17 Board of Health on a yearly basis to update Illinois standards to those acceptable by the  
18 CDC and/or the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

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20           RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society create and encourage a  
21 dialog with state officials to keep our immunization practices as up to date as possible  
22 and at the same time allow for communication of any changes in an effective manner  
23 though ISMS newsletters or other news outlet means.

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

It is the policy of ISMS to collaborate with the existing Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE) vaccine registry, the Illinois Department of Public Health, manufacturers of vaccines, and other states with existing immunization registries to investigate options to expand the current Illinois state immunization registry to include patients of all ages, and that the I-CARE vaccine registry be interoperable with all commercial healthcare databases. (HOD 2016)

It is the policy of ISMS that all CDC/ACIP-recommended vaccines should be included for all Medicare enrollees, including those in traditional Medicare and in Medicare Advantage programs, with no out-of-pocket cost. (HOD 2015)

ISMS supports the concept of increased government funding for immunizations of school children. (HOD 1987; Last BOT Review 2014)

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

Board of Trustees approved sending a letter to the IDPH Immunization Registry Administrator, the Chicago Area Immunization Campaign, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians with feedback regarding the I-CARE registry system. (BOT 2009-OCT)

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 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 Amended; Last BOT Review 2014)

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