



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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Summary in response to 2015 Senate Resolution 27 - Youth Vaccinations in Pennsylvania:
Report of the Work Group on Youth Vaccinations of the Advisory Committee on Public Health Law

The report recommendations focus on regulatory and policy issues rather than on statutory changes. The recommendations fall into three categories: recommendations aimed at improving the information available regarding vaccination rates; recommendations aimed at educating the public regarding the importance and availability of vaccines, and ensuring adequate access to vaccines; and recommendations aimed at enforcement of vaccination requirements.

Information

- The Work Group recommends that individual student compliance (either full vaccination or formal exemption) be reported at the conclusion of the provisional admission period so that accurate rates of immunization are available.
- The Work Group recommends that reporting to the Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS) be made mandatory for all vaccine providers.
- The Work Group recommends that efforts be made to ensure school medical staff have access to the Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS).
- The Work Group recommends that more information be gathered regarding parents' and guardians' reasons for not vaccinating their children.

Education and Access

- The Work Group recommends that an updated and more complete list of required vaccinations that follows the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations be implemented in Pennsylvania for all individuals subject to vaccination requirements.
- The Work Group recommends that programs designed to provide educational materials regarding the safety, availability, and importance of the annual influenza vaccine to parents and guardians of children, to students, and to school staff, be implemented or continued.
- The Work Group recommends that school-located influenza vaccination programs and other programs designed to make annual influenza vaccination more accessible be implemented or continued.
- The Work Group recommends that the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services, in collaboration with practitioners and insurers, implement or continue educational programs designed to inform parents and guardians of the resources available to ensure financial barriers do not prevent youth from receiving vaccinations.

Enforcement

- The Work Group recommends that the Department of Health and the Department of Education consider implementing a system for making school district vaccination rates easily accessible to the public in order to encourage compliance with, and enforcement of, the vaccination requirements, as well as to encourage public awareness of the importance of vaccination compliance.
- The Work Group recommends that the Department of Health and the Department of Education provide clear procedures and criteria for documenting and certifying the allowable exemptions from vaccination.
- The Work Group recommends that enforcement procedures for vaccination compliance be defined by regulations developed in collaboration by the Department of Health and the Department of Education.
- The Work Group recommends a much shorter provisional admission period, which should expire prior to federal reporting deadlines, for children who do not meet the vaccination requirements at the beginning of the school year.