



CHICAGO AREA IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Illinois Chapter



ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

April 18, 2011

To: The Illinois State Board of Health

From: The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)
The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP)
The Chicago Area Immunization Campaign/Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition (CAIC)

RE: Proposed Amendment to Child Health Examination Code Aligning Pertussis Vaccine Requirement with Existing Mandatory Physical Examination Requirement at 6th grade

The purpose of this written testimony is to state that ICAAP, IAFP and the CAIC are in full support of the proposed amendment to the Child Health Examination Code aligning the pertussis vaccine requirement with the current existing mandatory physical examination requirement at 6th grade.

The ICAAP is an organization of primary care and specialist pediatricians dedicated to the health, safety and well being of Illinois children. The CAIC is a broad-based coalition of more than 100 Chicago-Area public and private sector partners working together to increase immunization rates and prevent disease by promoting the delivery of safe, effective and timely immunizations. The IAFP represents over 2,500 active family physicians dedicated to improving the health of Illinoisans of all ages. All three organizations support the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that a dose of combined tetanus/diphtheria/ acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) be administered at 11-12 years of age, to protect against whooping cough, a highly contagious, and potentially deadly respiratory tract infection.

It is important that school vaccination requirements are clear and consistent with current pediatric recommendations and practices. There is a clear efficiency that will be achieved by aligning the pertussis vaccine requirement to the physical examination requirement at 6th grade. Tdap is currently covered through the Vaccines for Children-Plus (VFC-Plus) program in Illinois. VFC-Plus provides vaccine coverage for all VFC eligible children ages 0-18 years as well as the under-insured child in this age range. Implementation of this requirement will not result in a financial burden on families nor does it require additional state funding to support.

This amendment will ensure consistency with ACIP requirements and also have an extremely positive impact on the health of Illinois' children. As well as we do with childhood vaccination rates, pertussis disease is currently poorly controlled in the United States. In Illinois, over 1,000 cases of pertussis were reported during 2010, with the majority of cases occurring in individuals under 18 years of age. Not only do we want to protect students from pertussis and prevent community wide outbreaks, but it is also important that we reduce the reservoir of pertussis within the population at large and potentially reduce the incidence of pertussis, specifically in infants who have the highest risk for complications from pertussis, and often are too young to be fully vaccinated before exposure.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on the organizations' position, please contact us at our information listed below.

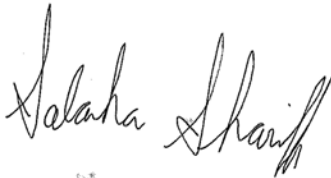
On behalf of our organizations, we are grateful to the members of the Illinois State Board of Health who have consistently worked to promote the health and safety of the children of Illinois. We thank you for your consideration of our views.



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