PROTECTING MICHIGAN’S CHILDREN

Reducing Non-Medical Vaccination Waivers

WHAT HAPPENED

Michigan’s Recent Experience with Childhood Immunization Requirements

- Michigan has a disappointing history of high immunization waiver rates, leaving students across the state at risk for preventable, potentially deadly diseases.
  - In the 2014-15 school year, Michigan had the sixth highest kindergarten waiver rate in the country with 5.3% of children receiving a waiver.
  - Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases have closed schools and even taken the lives of numerous children.
- The waiver process varied widely among Michigan’s 45 local health jurisdictions.
- Waiver rates were lowest in the counties that required an educational visit to the local health department (LHD) before granting a philosophical exemption (3.3%) compared to jurisdictions that did not have this requirement (6.3%).

ACTION TAKEN

- In 2014, Michigan schools and childcare centers reported more than 25,000 children with a waiver for one or more vaccines.
- In January 2015, new rules developed by the Snyder administration and approved by the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules after a public hearing standardized the waiver process across LHDs to give parents/guardians the opportunity to speak with a health educator about their concerns and questions regarding immunizations prior to signing a philosophical waiver.

HOW’S IT WORKED?

Keeping Kids Healthy

The number of non-medical waivers in Michigan schools and childcare centers has declined dramatically since the new rule was implemented.

- From 2014 to 2016, there was a 33.3 percent decrease in the overall waiver rates in schools and a 27.3 percent decrease in waiver rates at childcare facilities.
- 18,000 fewer waivers were requested by parents in the last two years.
- In just the first year, Michigan improved five spots to the 11th highest waiver rate in the country for kindergartners.

More children are protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

- In 2014, 92.7 percent of reported students had a complete immunization record for school required vaccinations.
- In 2015, 94.2 percent of students had a complete record and this decreased slightly to 94 percent in 2016.
- Thousands of Michigan children are better protected now against deadly, preventable diseases than in 2014, as are their family members and classmates who cannot safely be vaccinated.
Providing Parents with Vaccine Education Makes a Difference

Non-medical Waiver Rates in Michigan’s Schools and Childcares, 2014-2016

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Reasons for School and Childcare Immunization Requirements

- Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Schools in the United States have required vaccines for students for over 160 years because immunizations keep kids safe, especially students who have medical waivers because of serious health conditions such as autoimmune disorders, cancer, and transplant recipients.

### PROTECT MICHIGAN’S NEW VACCINATION GUIDELINES.

**PROTECT MICHIGAN’S CHILDREN.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>% Change from 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindergarten</strong></td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7th Grade</strong></td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Entrants</strong></td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Childcare</strong></td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The member organizations of the **PIN**

[Parent Information Network]

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Cooperative for safe kids
Maternal Child Health
Franny Strong Foundation
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
Michigan Association of Health Plans
Michigan Health & Hospital Association
Michigan League for Public Health
Michigan Association of School Nurses
Michigan Association of United Ways
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Michigan State Medical Society
Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force
Michigan Pharmacists Association
United Way
Medical Care of Newborns
Michigan Association of Child Care Providers