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Kathy Cooper

From: Scott and Jodi Ferris <scott_and_jodi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 6:12 PM 2016 MAY 10 AM 9: 48
To: IRRC
Subject: Proposedd immunization changes

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to express my thoughts on the proposed changes to the immunization policy for vaccinated students.

Requiring combination forms of MMR and Tdap is a decision that places children at risk. If this change is adopted, children who received separate forms of these vaccinations prior to the change would be required to be re-vaccinated, not for any medical reason, but rather to comply with a nonsensical regulation that does not recognize their immunization status. Furthermore, this places additional pressure on parents and medical personal who are dealing with medically fragile children, pitting the health and well being of children that may need separate immunizations against their education. However rare this may be, children who currently receive separate immunizations are more likely to be receiving those separately due to a medical need. There is no reason to place any child at risk by removing this option for physicians and parents.

Adding an additional requirement for pertussis makes little sense to me. The CDC has stated the vaccine may not be effective, as well as expressed concern that pertussis may be mutating in response to wide-spread vaccines. If the later proves to be true, adding an additional inoculation will only serve to expedite this process, and place more children at risk. Adding an educational requirement when the medical efficacy of the vaccine is in question is unwise.

Eliminating the authority of parents to report natural occurrence of chicken pox places children at risk. My own children (who are now teens) had chicken pox when they were little, before we moved to Pennsylvania. No responsible Pennsylvanian doctor would provide me with verification of this when more than a decade has passed. Additionally, this sends the message to parents and students alike that parents cannot be trusted. Parental involvement is a vital part of a child's education, and creating a regulation that paints parents as untrustworthy damages this important bigger picture issue.

All schools should be required to inform parents that exemptions exist, and schools and doctors alike need to be educated on the existence and purpose of exemptions, and the language should be standardized state-wide. The information should include the regulations on exemptions, as well as empowering parents to recognize and report signs of adverse reactions to vaccines.

Finally, because the vaccine requirements at issue are required by age, I strongly recommend adding a "delay" exemption, so children who enter school early, or who advance more quickly, are not forced to receive vaccinations at an accelerated rate relative to their biological age, if the medical recommendations for their biological age conflict with the educational requirements.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Jodi