

3147

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IRRC

Dear Ms. Findley

2016 MAY 11 PM 1:34

This letter is my official comment for the proposed IRRC immunization regulations 3146 and 3147.

The changed reporting date from October to December is reasonable and causes no problems for students or parents. This is a good move for schools and administrators.

The proposed five day provisional period is unreasonably short. Working parents trying to schedule a doctor's visit to get a vaccination for school within the first week would be extremely difficult. Additionally, if a child is somewhat sick when school starts, she needs extra time to recover before loading her immune system with additional vaccinations. Previously unvaccinated children could be required to receive 9-10 vaccines in five days with such a short provisional period. Since the current provisional period is 8 months, cutting the time to 3 months would allow parents time to get the additional vaccines without difficulty. Schools would still have time to get their records completed before the end of December.

Students transferring from another district should be given 60 days to complete the paperwork. In rare occasions, 30 days might not be enough and students could be pressured to get duplicate vaccines to attend school.

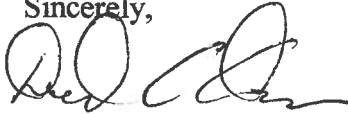
Since the law provides for medical and religious exemptions vaccines to students, school districts who do not make this information available are misrepresenting the truth when they tell parents that vaccines are required for school admission. The Departments of Health and Education should prepare a standard form to be used by each district that clearly states that these two exemptions are available to PA students. Homeschooling parents should also be informed of their exemption rights under the law as they are held to the same standards as public or private school students.

My siblings and I all had chicken pox as children and we did not require a visit to the doctor. Our mother knew how to keep us comfortable as we recovered. Requiring parents to take a child who is sick with the chicken pox to a doctor's office for the sole purpose of obtaining an official verification is not wise and I am surprised that the Department of Health would suggest something so reckless. This move could easily cause further outbreaks of chicken pox as the sick child could possibly infect other kids at the doctor's office. Obviously, parents would take their child if the condition merited medical intervention, but for most cases of chicken pox, this appointment would be unnecessary and expensive. Parents should be able to determine if a child has had the chicken pox and any attempt to override this right is an overreach of an unaccountable governmental agency.

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significantly. From asthma, to autism, auto-immune disorders to allergies, our school-age children are not flourishing. Promoting healthy living choices seems a much better direction for the Department to focus instead of looking for new ways to increase vaccine uptake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Eakin', written over a horizontal line.

David C. Eakin
205 North Race Street
Middletown, PA 17057-2243