

3146 FORUM LETTER C. 20

Kolva, Patti

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IRRC

From: Jade Groff <jadema108@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:40 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Please reconsider immunization regulations!

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I am writing you briefly to express my deep concern regarding the proposed immunization regulations for 28 PA Code Ch. 23:

- #3147 from the PA Department of Health
- #3146 from the PA Department of Education

The first issue is regarding the Department of Health's proposal to shorten the provisional period to only 5 days. The period should be shorter than it is, yes, for better record keeping but 5 days is way too short, that would be the shortest state requirement of any state. This would put sick children at risk for injury having so many vaccines in order to catch up in a 5 day period, especially if immunocompromised or sick (sick children are not supposed to receive vaccines until healthy). A more reasonable period could be 60-90 days and I am writing to ask that this period be lengthened to give families time to plan and seek a schedule that is safer & more reasonable.

Secondly, I ask that parents and legal guardians continue to be permitted to verify chicken pox. Bringing a child in the throes of chicken pox to a doctor's office or medical center can be both painful and risky.

It offers exposure to other patients in the waiting room, and creates a substantial burden upon the ill child and his or her parents. Additionally, every trip to the doctor/ER puts financial burden on families. We hope that trust can continue to exist between school districts and parents without involving this additional step.

Thirdly, in regards to the meningitis requirement being added for 12th grade entry, we ask that you take a closer look at risks and reward for such a vaccine with the information provided by the CDC. The CDC's pink book states that 2% of children to receive the vaccine will experience "serious adverse events". There have only been 390 cases in the last year in the U.S. Weighing the risks for serious adverse events having mandated meningitis vaccine and contracting the disease and then having a serious reaction to receiving it, the vaccines are likely to cause more illness and death than it claim to stop. The schedule is already heavy, there really is no need to add this vaccine.

Thank you for your time,
Jade Groff, Mother and CNM