

Advisory Committee on Medical Exemptions (ACME)
Virtual Meeting October 22, 2025

Attendees:

Inci Yildirim M.D.; Yale School of Medicine-Chair ACME
Deepa Mavani, Department of Public Health Interim Immunization Program Manager
Lori Flaherty; Supervisor of Non-Public School Nurses West Hartford
Rob Dudley M.D.; Pediatrician CHC of New Britain
Patricia Firmender, Epidemiologist; Department of Public Health Immunization Program
Mick Bolduc; Department of Public Health Immunization Program
Chlo-Anne Bobrowski; State of Connecticut Department of Education Division of School Health
Ricky Baltimore; Chief Legal Counsel State Democrats
Keisha Hewitt; Nurse Consultant State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
Ada Fenick M.D.; Professor of Pediatrics Yale School of Medicine
Melia Allen, Department of Public Health Legislative and Administrative Assistant

Absent: Susan Amster, P.A.; Physician Assistant

Meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM by Mick Bolduc of the Immunization Program.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the January 15, 2025, meeting and seconded. There were no objections to the acceptance of the minutes. Patricia Firmender presented information on the 2024-25 school immunization survey data. Key findings included an increase in rates statewide which contrasts to the trend being seen nationally. Of note, the number of schools below 95% for MMR coverage decreased and the number of medical exemptions increased marginally. Also, we have seen a decrease in the overall school population primarily due to the legislative change in the age for starting kindergarten. The number of religious exemptions continues to decrease as expected due to the passage of Public Act 21-6 in April of 2021. Patricia presented data from the medical exemption portal showing a sharp increase in the total number of exemptions into the portal as well as the number of providers entering exemptions into the portal. A motion was made by Deepa to take the committee into executive session to discuss confidential data from the medical exemption portal for the next portion of the meeting and seconded.

Attendees in the executive session were Inci Yildirim M.D., Ada Fenick M.D., Ricky Baltimore, Keisha Hewitt, Deepa Mavani, Lori Flaherty, Patricia Firmender, Chlo-Anne Bobrowski; and Mick Bolduc.

The committee exited the executive session at 12:17 PM. Deepa provided a brief overview of the session for Dr. Dudley. Deepa and Dr. Yildirim will work on a draft of the annual report due to the legislature by the end of the calendar year and circulate it to the committee members for comment in the coming days. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 29, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mick Bolduc Connecticut Immunization Program