Advisory Committee on Medical Exemptions (ACME)
Virtual Meeting August 12, 2026

Attendees:
Inci Yildirim M.D.; Yale School of Medicine-Chair ACME
Deepa Mavani, Department of Public Health Immunization Section Chief
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 Section
Mick Bolduc; Department of Public Health Immunization Section
Chlo-Anne Bobrowski; State of Connecticut Department of Education Division of School Health
Ricky Baltimore; Chief Legal Counsel State Democrats
Kristina Colon R.N.
Dr. Jacquelyne Guerra DNP, FNP-C, MSN, RN, BSN, MBA

Absent:
Susan Amster, P.A.; Physician Assistant
Keisha Hewitt; Nurse Consultant State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
Ada Fenick M.D.; Professor of Pediatrics Yale School of Medicine

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the October 22, 2025, meeting and seconded. There were no objections to the acceptance of the minutes. Patricia Firmender presented information on the 2025-26 school immunization survey data. Key findings included an increase in rates statewide which continues to contrast 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 saw an increase in the overall school population which is a rebound from the previous year which was 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 during the 2025 state fiscal year as well as the number of providers entering exemptions into the portal and the percentage of out of state providers entering exemptions into the portal. Based on several questions posed from committee members, Patricia will research data on how many exemptions entered into the portal are blanket exemptions. That may explain why we are seeing the high number of Tdap exemptions entered into the portal. The school survey data can be accessed on the date portal School Immunization Survey Data | Connecticut Data

A motion was made by Deepa to take the committee into executive session to discuss confidential data from the medical exemption portal and seconded. Attendees in the executive session were Inci Yildirim M.D., Ricky Baltimore, Deepa Mavani, Lori Flaherty, Patricia Firmender, Rob Dudley, M.D.; Kristina Colon; Dr. Jacquelyne Guerra; Chlo-Anne Bobrowski; and Mick Bolduc.

The committee exited the executive session at 12:00 PM. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 4, 2026, at 11:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.
Minutes submitted by Mick Bolduc Connecticut Immunization Section