



Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations

Annual Report
to the Public Health Committee
of the
Connecticut General Assembly

Pursuant to Public Act 21-6

December 21, 2023

Overview

Public Act 21-6 “An Act Concerning Immunizations” was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Lamont on April 27, 2021. The Public Act removed non-medical exemptions for immunizations, except in certain situations. Section 8 of Public Act 21-6 required the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish an Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations, that this committee meet at least twice per year and submit an annual report on its activities and findings to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance on matters of public health.

Summary of Activities:

The committee met twice during 2023, on May 24th and October 18th.

1. Committee has discussed the updates on DPH guidance to school nurses for unvaccinated and under-vaccinated students and provided a letter dated February 16, 2023, to all MDs, DOs, PAs, & APRNs in the state from DPH Commissioner Juthani with instructions on how to handle in process vaccinations for students in all grade levels. The letter also reminded providers that all medical exemptions issued since July 1, 2021 must be submitted to a secure, web-based portal that has been established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to collect medical exemption information.
2. Committee has reviewed 2022-2023 school immunization survey results. Patricia Firmender of the Immunization Program presented the survey results reporting on students' immunization status as of October 1, 2022, and that was collected through the RedCap software application. The survey showed a decrease in religious exemptions for kindergarten students from 2.1 % in the 2021-2022 school year to 0.5% in the 2022-2023 school year, since the enacting of Public Act 21-6. For medical exemptions the rate remained steady at 0.3 % with a high of 30 reported at one school. The survey data is published on the Immunization Program's open data portal which is publicly available: [School Immunization Survey Data | Connecticut Data](#)

Dr. Rob Dudley has joined the committee as our newest member when Dr. Jody Terranova took over a new role as the Deputy Commissioner at Department of Public Health and stepped down as chair of the committee in January 2023. Dr. Inci Yildirim has been elected to serve as the chair of the committee as of April 2023.

DPH continues to use the portal to capture information from medical exemption forms submitted from the time of the passage of Public Act 21-6. Providers are required to enter this information for all exemptions submitted on behalf of their patients.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Inci Yildirim', with a small dot at the end.

Inci Yildirim, MD, PhD
Chair, Advisory Committee on Medical Exemptions