

Report to the General Assembly

Public Health Committee

Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations

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Executive Summary

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.

Committee Membership

Member	Designee (*chairperson)	Organization/Role
Department of Public Health Commissioner Juthani	Deepa Mavani	Department of Public Health Interim Immunization Program Manager
State Department of Education Commissioner Russell-Tucker	Chlo-Anne Bobrowski	Department of Education Division of School Health
Office of Early Childhood Commissioner Bye	Keisha Hewitt	Office of Early Childhood Nurse Consultant
Speaker of House Matt Ritter	Richard (Ricky) Baltimore	Chief Legal Counsel State Democrats
	Dr. Inci Yildirim*	Yale School of Medicine Section Chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Global Health
House Majority Leader Jason Rojas	Lori Flaherty	Supervisor of Non-Public School Nurses West Hartford
House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora	No appointment made	
Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney	No appointment made	
Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff	Susan Amster	Physician Assistant
Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly	Rob Dudley MD	Pediatrician CHC of New Britain

Introduction

According to Section 8 of Public Act 21-6, the Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations met twice this year for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Public Health on issues concerning exemptions from state or federal requirements for vaccinations.

DPH developed and maintains a medical exemption 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 medical exemptions submitted on behalf of their patients.

Discussion

The committee met twice during 2024, on June 12th and November 13th.

1. The committee reviewed data submitted into the medical exemption portal in an executive session, as some of the information was confidential.
2. The Committee reviewed guidance drafted by the State Department of Education to school nurses stating that all medical exemptions issued since July 1, 2021 must be submitted to a secure, web-based portal that has been established by DPH to collect medical exemption information.
3. The committee reviewed [National Kindergarten MMWR data](#) for the 2023–2024 school year. The data showed that nationally vaccination coverage decreased for all vaccines, with MMR vaccine coverage decreasing in 35 out of 50 states. And national exemptions increased, with 41 states reporting an increase. However, Connecticut is an exception to the trend; immunization rates for kindergarten students increased for all vaccines and total exemption rates decreased.

Deepa Mavani joined the committee as our newest member, designated by the DPH Commissioner, when Kathy Kudish took a new role as the State Public Health Veterinarian in November 2024.

Conclusion

The committee had a robust discussion based on the review of the medical exemption portal data and concluded that an additional meeting was needed in January 2025 to further discuss recommendations that would be made to the Commissioner of Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,



Inci Yildirim, MD, PhD

Chair, Advisory Committee on Medical Exemptions