



Texas Pediatric Society

The Texas Chapter of the
American Academy of Pediatrics

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Dear Texas School Administrators and School Board Leaders,

The Texas Pediatric Society is writing to you in support of a proposed program to improve rates of HPV and Flu vaccination across the state.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has made increasing HPV vaccination rates a priority across the country. In Texas, only 38% of girls and 15% of boys completed the series in 2013. HPV is a virus that causes cancer. Approximately 400 women will die from cervical cancer and more than 300 men and women from other HPV-related cancers in 2015. HPV vaccination can prevent most of these cancers. The vaccine provides the strongest protection if it is given before age 15. The vaccine has been available for more than 10 years and has been shown to be very safe.

The CDC also recommends Flu vaccination for every school age child. Only about half of our children get Flu vaccine. Increasing vaccination rates for Flu not only prevents illness, it keeps kids in school during Flu season. Flu also can be deadly. In the 2014-2015 season, at least 13 children in Texas died from Flu.

Placing recommendations for these vaccines on the school vaccination letter can serve as a reminder to parents and doctors. It could also help to inform the parents that these vaccines are recommended by the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the leadership of the school district.

The program suggested can help increase and improve vaccination rates and also help to ensure that efforts are being made to protect every child from vaccine preventable cancers and diseases while also helping to improve school attendance and learning. A sample of a modified school immunization letter is on pages 2-3 of this letter.

The Committee on Infectious Diseases and Immunizations of the Texas Pediatric Society enthusiastically supports efforts of Texas school districts to increase immunization rates in all required and recommended vaccines among children. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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