

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1171 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, ALLOWAY, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE,  
BOSCOLA, WARD, MUSTO, WASHINGTON, RAFFERTY AND FERLO,  
DECEMBER 23, 2009

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, DECEMBER 23, 2009

AN ACT

1 Providing for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
2 recommendations for influenza vaccination in children.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Immunization  
7 Practices Act.

8 Section 2. Recommendations for influenza vaccination in  
9 children.

10 (a) Duties.--In order to improve the Commonwealth's  
11 childhood immunization rates for influenza and comply with the  
12 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
13 Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for  
14 influenza vaccination, the Department of Health shall do all of  
15 the following:

16 (1) Review and enhance current immunization activities  
17 to focus on vaccination of all children ages six months to 18

1 years of age who are recommended for an influenza vaccination  
2 by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.

3 (2) Increase immunization awareness about traditional  
4 shots and needle-free delivery methods by publishing on the  
5 department's Internet website information about the benefits  
6 of annual immunization against influenza for all children  
7 recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization  
8 Practices.

9 (3) Work with appropriate State agencies and licensed  
10 child-care facilities to ensure that the information on the  
11 benefits of annual immunization against influenza for  
12 children ages six months to 18 years of age is annually  
13 distributed to parents in August before influenza season  
14 begins.

15 (4) Work with health care professionals and public  
16 health organizations to develop plans for expanding outreach  
17 and opportunities to achieve the Advisory Committee for  
18 Immunization Practices recommended target vaccination of all  
19 children aged six months to 18 years of age.

20 (5) Examine the use of schools and alternative venues to  
21 administer influenza vaccine to children in a timely manner.

22 (b) Programs.--The department may offer school-based  
23 influenza vaccine programs. To the degree that products are  
24 available through Federal vaccine programs and State-funded  
25 programs, the department shall offer a variety of delivery  
26 methods, including traditional shots and needle-free delivery  
27 methods.

28 (c) Report.--The department shall annually, on or before May  
29 1, submit a written report on all school-based vaccination  
30 programs administered or funded by the department. Its findings

1 and recommendations shall be submitted to the chairman and  
2 minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of  
3 the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Health  
4 and Human Services Committee and the Children and Youth  
5 Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall  
6 include an assessment of all of the following:

7       (1) the benefits of establishing school-based influenza  
8 vaccination programs for the purpose of achieving the  
9 Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommendation  
10 for annual influenza vaccination of all children aged six  
11 months to 18 years of age;

12       (2) the rate of participation for students offered both  
13 shots and needle-free vaccine delivery methods;

14       (3) the school and community influenza infection rates  
15 following the school-based influenza vaccination program;

16       (4) the school-based influenza vaccination program's  
17 impact on student absenteeism rates; and

18       (5) the feasibility of establishing school-based  
19 vaccination programs for seasonal influenza vaccination  
20 across this Commonwealth.

21 Section 3. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.