
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 407 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, GREENLEAF, WARD, SMITH, BREWSTER,
TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, HUGHES, COSTA AND RAFFERTY,
FEBRUARY 4, 2015

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

AN ACT

1 Providing for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices'
2 recommendations for influenza vaccination in children and for
3 duties of the Department of Health.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

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

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

14 Section 3. Recommendations for influenza vaccination in
15 children.

16 (a) Duties.--In order to improve this Commonwealth's
17 childhood immunization rates for influenza and comply with the
18 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization

1 Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for
2 influenza vaccination, the department shall do all of the
3 following:

4 (1) Review and enhance current immunization activities
5 to focus on vaccination of all children ages six months to 18
6 years of age who are recommended for an influenza vaccination
7 by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

8 (2) Increase immunization awareness about injectable and
9 needle-free delivery methods by publishing on the
10 department's Internet website information about the benefits
11 of annual immunization against influenza for all children
12 recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization
13 Practices.

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

20 (4) Work with health care professionals and public
21 health organizations to develop plans for expanding outreach
22 and opportunities to achieve the Advisory Committee on
23 Immunization Practices' recommended target vaccination of all
24 children aged six months to 18 years of age.

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

27 (b) Programs.--The department may offer school-based
28 influenza vaccine programs. To the extent that influenza
29 vaccinations are available, the department must offer both
30 injectable and needle-free delivery methods.

1 (c) Report.--The department shall annually, on or before May
2 1, submit a written report on all school-based vaccination
3 programs administered or funded by the department. Its findings
4 and recommendations shall be submitted to the chairman and
5 minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of
6 the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Health
7 Committee of the House of Representatives and the chairman and
8 minority chairman of the Children and Youth Committee of the
9 House of Representatives. The report shall include an assessment
10 of all of the following:

11 (1) the benefits of establishing school-based influenza
12 vaccination programs for the purpose of achieving the
13 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendation
14 for annual influenza vaccination of all children aged six
15 months to 18 years of age;

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

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

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

22 (5) the cost of establishing school-based vaccination
23 programs for influenza vaccination across this Commonwealth.

24 Section 4. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 60 days.