

Austin ISD School Health Advisory Council



Health Services Subcommittee Recommendation on Vaccination Enforcement May 1, 2019

Recommendation:

AISD should enforce vaccine requirements to the maximum extent allowed under state law. No children should be allowed to attend schools in AISD without state approved vaccine waivers. AISD will also provide information about free vaccination sites and services available in their community.

Summary:

Recent increases in vaccine preventable illness in Central Texas such as measles, mumps, and pertussis illustrate the importance of vaccines for the health and safety of students in AISD and for broader Austin community. Central Texas has high rates of unvaccinated individuals, which poses a risk both to those individuals and the health of children who are unable to vaccinate for health reasons. Currently, AISD allows unvaccinated students without state waivers to attend school, which creates a risk both to public health as well as a liability risk to the district should an outbreak occur and the district was negligent in enforcing state law.

Every effort should be made by school health staff to connect families with resources for vaccines, but the risk to the school population in the setting of recent illness outbreak requires adherence to state law and district policy on student and staff vaccinations.

Resources and Education:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Pages/refusal-to-vaccinate.aspx>

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2018/10/29/elimination-of-nonmedical-vaccine-exemptions-in-california-is-the-legislation-working-pediatrics-10-29-18>

TMA policies: <https://www.texmed.org/immunizations/>

AAP (in addition to above websites): <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/Documents/Immunizations.pdf>

Not exactly on this specific issue but more broadly speaking, California, West Virginia, and Mississippi (yes, even Mississippi) have stricter laws -- here's Mississippi's one.

https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,71,688.html