



## **Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC)**

### **Public Policy Priorities for 2016-2018**

*CCIC Board Approved – September 2015*

Note: This document is meant to provide the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) and its members a guideline for prioritizing advocacy efforts and resources. The following policy priorities and the rankings were created, reviewed and approved by the CCIC Policy Committee and the Board and are based on considerations of recent immunization policy initiatives, potential upcoming policy actions, and current political landscape. However, CCIC recognizes that advancing a policy agenda requires flexibility and nimble responsiveness resulting in potential changes in both priorities and/or rankings.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The following overarching principles underlie all of CCIC's policy priorities:

- Successful implementation of CCIC's policy priorities relies on creating strategic, collaborative partnerships and leveraging the collective voice of a diverse and active coalition.
- Immunization data sharing, while maintaining confidentiality, is key to clinical and public health decision making.
- Monitoring public health and health care policy successes and challenges outside Colorado informs CCIC of political landscape and climate trends and allows it to be poised to take action in development and implementation of policy initiatives.
- CCIC works to minimize transmission of vaccine preventable diseases in all age groups. Adults are always in contact with children and must therefore provide protection and be protected from vaccine-preventable disease.
- Community protection to minimize transmission of vaccine preventable diseases is the cornerstone of immunization program effectiveness. Therefore, policies and strategies that reduce the barriers for comprehensive coverage should be pursued (e.g. increased requirements for obtaining non-medical exemptions, increased accessibility and timeliness of immunizations, and vaccination of populations that influence transmissibility).

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 1**

### **Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS): Enhanced Utilization**

#### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC supports inclusion of complete and accurate life-long immunization data in CIIS, integration of CIIS with schools (which include licensed child care facilities) and use of CIIS in clinical and public health decision making.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 2**

### **School Entry Laws: Improved Enforcement and Compliance**

#### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC supports increased school (which includes licensed child care facility) entry law enforcement and compliance, and increased participation of State and Local Public Health in school entry law enforcement, compliance, and collection of data.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 3**

### **Non-Medical Exemptions: Equal Effort Based on Informed Refusal**

#### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

Evidence shows that non-medical exemptions result in higher risk of vaccine preventable disease to both the children who take an exemption and to others in the community. Non-medical exemptions should require 'equal effort' compared to obtaining immunizations (required renewals at regular intervals) and should be based on informed refusal. CCIC supports the Board of Health rules adopted in 2015 concerning non-medical exemptions.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 4**

### **Child Care Workers and Child Care Health Consultants: Stricter Immunization Requirements**

#### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

Protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases is a child safety issue. Younger children are particularly vulnerable to contracting highly contagious diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, varicella (chickenpox), and influenza. To prevent the transmission of disease to children enrolled in child care, CCIC supports immunization requirements for all child care workers and child care health consultants in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 5**

## Ensure Vaccine Access

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC supports affordable and accessible immunizations in accordance with ACIP recommendations for all Coloradans.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 6**

### Safety Net: Incentivize Participation in Vaccines for Children (VFC)

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC supports initiatives to incentivize Medicaid and CHP+ providers to participate in Vaccines for Children (VFC).

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 7**

### Increased Immunization Funding and Reimbursement

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC supports increased funding for the CDPHE Immunization Program and provider reimbursement for immunization administration through state General Fund, Federal Funds and grant funds, as well as defense of any budget cuts that might adversely affect such funding.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 8**

### Healthcare Workers: Require ACIP-recommended vaccinations

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

Because of their contact with patients or infective material from patients, many health care workers (HCWs) are at risk for exposure to and possible transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. In light of these facts, CCIC believes that all health care workers should receive recommended ACIP vaccinations annually.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 9**

### Ensure life-long immunization: Support resources to ensure life-long immunization for ACIP-recommended vaccinations

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

CCIC Supports immunization across the life-span.

## **POLICY ISSUE PRIORITY NO. 10**

## K-12 Teachers and Other School and District Employees: Require ACIP-recommended vaccinations

### **CCIC Position in September 2015:**

To protect the health of staff and to prevent the transmission of disease to children and youth enrolled in K-12 schools, CCIC supports immunization requirements for all teachers in accordance with the ACIP recommendations.