



# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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State Health Officer



February 12, 2019

Subject: School-based Immunization Clinics

Dear Superintendents:

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), in collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), continues to encourage school-based clinics for influenza (flu), adolescent (Tdap, Meningococcal, and HPV cancer-prevention) vaccines, and other recommended vaccines. We strongly encourage each superintendent to work with the provider of choice to ensure that immunization clinics are offered to students. Parents should have the ability to consent to any immunization or “opt out.”

In March 2018, the Alabama State Legislature passed Resolution SJR113, [http://web.alsde.edu/legislativebills/2018Regular/2018RS\\_SJR113\\_ENACTED.pdf](http://web.alsde.edu/legislativebills/2018Regular/2018RS_SJR113_ENACTED.pdf), also urging ALSDE and ADPH to encourage all schools to participate in a school-based vaccination clinic (SBVC). These SBVCs are to ensure more students are up-to-date on vaccines to reduce the cost, time, staff, supplies, and resources needed to respond to an outbreak.

For children covered by Public Education Employees’ Health Insurance Plan (PEEHIP), only ADPH staff can provide vaccines in schools. PEEHIP dependents will not be allowed to participate in adolescent SBVC clinics, but must go to the county health department, primary care physician, or participating pharmacy.

The Alabama American Academy of Pediatrics and The Alabama American Academy of Family Physicians are asking all SBVC providers to distribute information regarding the importance of teen well child visits. This information stresses that adolescents should have a medical home for continuity of care. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Please encourage your school nurses to ensure these clinics are offered in your local education agency. The clinics are very efficient and disruptions are few. Lead nurses should not be making any decisions about what Advisory of Immunization Practices and ADPH recommended vaccines are offered in the clinics. The parents should be given the information to make the decision regarding vaccines their child should receive. We ask you and/or the principal to work with your Lead Nurse to ensure your schools provide this invaluable service.

Together we can prevent future disease and cancers in our children. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Lesinger, ADPH Immunization Division Director, at 334-206-2018 or [cindy.lesinger@adph.state.al.us](mailto:cindy.lesinger@adph.state.al.us), or Jennifer Ventress, ALSDE Nurse Administrator, at 334-242-8174 or [jventress@alsde.edu](mailto:jventress@alsde.edu). For questions about PEEHIP, please call 1-877-517-0020.

Sincerely,

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State Health Officer  
Alabama Department of Public Health

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D  
State Superintendent  
Alabama Department of Education