



Metro Public Health Dept

Nashville / Davidson County

Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

Resolution

- WHEREAS,** The Board of Health for Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County fully supports the mission of the Metro Public Health Department to protect, improve and sustain the health of all people in Davidson County; and,
- WHEREAS,** There have been few if any public health interventions as successful as vaccinations at improving health and increasing life expectancy ⁽¹⁾; and,
- WHEREAS** It is estimated that vaccines still save between 2.5 and 3 million lives worldwide every year ⁽²⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** The vaccines recommended by the CDC for the prevention of disease in children and adults have been proven to be safe, and are continuously monitored through several safety systems ⁽³⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** Studies have shown there is no link between vaccines and autism ⁽⁴⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** Vaccines protect not only those who receive them, but also those who are too medically frail or otherwise unable to receive the vaccinations themselves, through what is called 'herd immunity' ⁽⁵⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** Vaccination rates have dipped below optimum in some pockets of the United States, leading to isolated outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases ^(6,7) and unnecessary suffering; and,
- WHEREAS,** The most recent survey of vaccination rates for 24-month-olds in Davidson County indicates an increase compared to prior years in the percentage of sampled parents who are choosing for non-medical reasons not to immunize their children ⁽⁸⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** In a world where the success of vaccinations over many generations has obscured the devastation these diseases can cause, the Board of Health remains acutely aware of these dangers; and,
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Health does not wish to see needless suffering visited on the citizens of Davidson County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County, on this 13th day of June, 2019,

- 1) Encourages parents to immunize their children fully, and encourages adults to get an annual flu shot as well as other recommended immunizations based on age or risk factors; and,
- 2) Encourages health care providers to take every opportunity to promote and provide immunizations to their patients; and,
- 3) Supports and encourages efforts at the state level to reduce or eliminate allowable non-medical exemptions from vaccination.

Carol Etherington, MSN, RN, Chair
Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville/Davidson County

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 2, 1999, accessed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056803.htm>

² World Health Organization, "10 Facts on Immunization," updated March, 2018, accessed at: <https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/immunization/en/>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Vaccine Safety," accessed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/iso.html>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Vaccine Safety," accessed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html>

⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, accessed at: <https://www.vaccines.gov/basics/work/protection>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Vaccines and Immunizations," accessed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/whatifstop.htm>

⁷ The New York Times, "Largest U.S. Measles Outbreak in 25 Years Surpasses 980 Cases," Weiyi Cai, Denise Lu and Scott Reinhard, updated June 3, 2019, accessed at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/health/measles-outbreak.html>

⁸ Tennessee Department of Health, "Results of the 2018 Immunization Status Survey of 24-month Old Children in Tennessee," accessed at: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/annual-reports/2018-Annual-Imm-24-Month-Old-Survey.pdf>