

Chair: Lydia (Mimi) Luther

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, 10- 11:30 AM

Via Zoom

Voting Members Attending: Morgan Allen, Mark Bajorek, Kim Bartholomew, Kate Blair, Corinna Brower, Donald Dodson, Richard Donovan, Sasha Grenier, Suzanne McClintick, Kathryn Miller, Ann Occhi, Mark Siegel, Jamie Smith, Sara Sterns, Jennifer Vines

Non-Voting Members Attending: Paul Cieslak, Stacy de Assis Matthews, Mimi Luther, Mallory Metzger, Shannon O'Fallon, Anne VanCuren, Collette Young

Welcome and housekeeping

Introduction and roll call of the Immunization School/Children's Facility/College Law Advisory Committee (ISLAC).

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Paul Cieslak and Dr. Shimi Sharief presented COVID disease and vaccination data for Oregon. See

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Documents/ISLACpresentations11-17.pdf> for access to the slides from the presentation.

School Update

Kati Moseley from the Oregon Department of Education gave a school operations update. The presentation included:

- Values and Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year
- State and Local Decision Making
- Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework and Tools

See

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Documents/ISLACpresentations11-17.pdf> for access to the slides from the presentation.

Update of OHA's goal to end health inequities by 2030

Oregon Public Health Division Director Rachael Banks gave an update on OHA's goal to eliminate health disparities by 2030. Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined

circumstances. Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:

- The equitable distribution or redistribution of resources and power; and
- Recognizing, reconciling and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.

See

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Documents/ISLACpresentations11-17.pdf> for access to the slides from the presentation.

Considerations for vaccine requirements during a pandemic. Are there changes needed to the criteria and processes used by ISLAC?

A review of the typical process used by ISLAC in making recommendations about vaccine requirements was presented by Stacy de Assis Matthews, Oregon Immunization Program.

- This committee, in statute since the 1980's, advises the Oregon Health Authority on the administration of school immunization laws, and the adoption of rules around school immunizations.
- This committee uses a set of criteria that they adopted a little over a decade ago, and more recently the committee has been working on revising these.
- After the committee reviews a vaccine and makes a recommendation to OHA, it typically takes a year or so for vaccine requirements to be implemented in schools. This is because there is an administrative rule change process and opportunity for public comments that usually takes several months, and then schools need time to implement a new requirement—everything from changing their computer tracking systems, to OHA revising the immunization forms, to updating the online vaccine education video for claiming nonmedical exemptions. In addition, vaccine requirements are typically phased in by a staggered manner certain grades at a time, so school systems and clinics aren't overwhelmed by requiring all children to get a vaccine at once.

A review of changes to the previous criteria for evaluating vaccines as potential school requirements was presented by Mallory Metzger, Oregon Immunization Program. For draft criteria, see

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Documents/ISLACdraftReviewCriteria.pdf>

- Format changes:
 - Introduction which mentions the need to balance health and safety with impacts to education, financial, and logistical challenges placed on students and families.
 - Purpose states these criteria are used to help the committee determine whether to recommend a vaccine for school and child care requirements and ensure that equity is considered in adding or not adding a vaccine requirement.
- Assumptions are

- The vaccine is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and on the immunization schedule for the group the requirement is being considered.
- ALERT IIS can accept data and forecast for this vaccine.
- Medical and nonmedical exemptions are anticipated to be available.
- Stable and adequate supply of the vaccine is anticipated.
- The vaccine is covered by the Vaccines for Children program
- There is now explicit mention of reviewing data by race and ethnicity in the regards to vaccine safety, efficacy, disease burden, vaccine uptake, etc.
- There are more detailed discussion questions regarding community acceptance, concerns, trust, language barriers, and access to vaccines.

Discussion by committee:

There was concern about societal ramifications of requiring COVID vaccine for students. There was concern about not knowing the eventual recommendation of the frequency of the vaccine for children. The impacts of quarantines on families and students are of importance to the decision making. There was discussion of needing to add global pandemic language to the criteria. Members raised the following questions:

What are the access issues?

Should there an option for short-term requirements?

Should there be a different pathway other than ISLAC for short-term requirements?

It was suggested to go through the criteria with the lens of "who benefits and who is burdened".

For a recording of the meeting, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezV0ieRx-YQ>

Visit the ISLAC website at

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Pages/ISLAC.aspx>
