

Immunization bill introduced

Against the backdrop of increasing numbers of measles cases being reported in the U.S. – 626 in 22 states since Jan. 1 – legislation (H.B. 132) was recently introduced in the Ohio House requiring public and nonpublic schools to notify students' parents/guardians of the exemptions from immunizations for school attendance.

Current law prohibits students from remaining in school for more than 14 days without written evidence of having received, or being in the process of receiving, the required immunizations, which include: Chicken pox; Diphtheria; Hepatitis B; Measles; Meningococcal disease; Mumps; Pertussis; Poliomyelitis; Rubella; and, Tetanus.

Exemptions apply if:

- ◆ A signed statement is provided indicating that the student has had the natural disease (for chicken pox, measles or mumps);
- ◆ A statement is provided indicating that the student's parent/guardian declines to have the student immunized for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions; or,
- ◆ A physician certifies in writing that immunization against a particular disease is medically contraindicated for the student.

