

Kansas School Immunization Regulatory Process



In Kansas our school vaccination requirements are in the Department of education section of the statutes KSA 72-6261 which direct the Secretary of the KDHE to provide the list of diseases required to be vaccinated against. We make our determinations of the annual list of required vaccines based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP is regarded as the premier resource for guidance on vaccine best practices.

K.S.A. 72 – 6261 Kansas Statutes Related to school Requirements and K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines the immunization required for school and early childhood program attendance. Legal Alternatives to school vaccination requirements are found in K.S.A 72-6262.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommendations: The Committee's recommendations are forwarded to CDC's Director for approval. Once the ACIP recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the CDC Director and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, they are published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). The MMWR publication represents the final and official CDC recommendations for immunization of the U.S. population. The ACIP uses a very extensive process to review all available science before making a recommendation or changing a recommendation on a vaccine.

This process is fully explained here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/index.html>

The ACIP uses a variety of subject matter experts on workgroups to do extensive research and consideration prior to recommendations being made or changed.

Information about work groups may be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/workgroups.html>

All ACIP meetings are public and there is opportunity for public comment at each quarterly meeting.

It is important that the list of required vaccines remain in the current regulation process rather than being individually listed in statutes due to the ability to respond to the changes in ACIP recommendations time line. A new vaccine may be recommended at any of the quarterly meetings based on evidence which would make it best practice for inclusion in our required list. In the same vein, a problem may be discovered and a vaccine no longer be recommended due to a new safety concern or new evidence of poor efficacy of a particular vaccine. In such a case, KDHE would want to remove the vaccine from the required list. The notification of the required list is due to the schools annually in February to allow for notification to providers and parents prior to the school year beginning in August. If vaccines were listed in statute, the ability to respond to changes in a timely manner would be hampered due to the limits of the legislative process for introducing and approving bills.