



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1           **Resolution In Support Of Increasing Adolescent Immunization Rates**

2   **WHEREAS**, vaccines have been cited as one of the ten great public health achievements, and

3   **WHEREAS**, significant strides have been made to increase vaccine uptake rates and reduce vaccine  
4 preventable diseases in the United States among adolescents, and

5   **WHEREAS**, uptake of adolescent-recommended vaccines (e.g., Meningococcal, Human Papillomavirus  
6 (HPV), and Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)) varies widely across states, and

7   **WHEREAS**, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory  
8 Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend immunizations for adolescents up to 18 years of  
9 age against several different vaccine-preventable diseases including: COVID-19, influenza, tetanus,  
10 diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningococcal disease  
11 (meningitis), and

12 **WHEREAS**, a focus on prevention of disease is an important factor in designing adolescent health services;  
13 prevention, early intervention, and timely treatment can improve adolescent health status and decrease the  
14 incidence of many chronic diseases in adulthood<sup>i</sup>, and

15 **WHEREAS**, most adolescent vaccines are administered in a primary care setting and adolescents historically  
16 have the lowest rate of primary care use of any group in the U.S. and are the least likely to have access to  
17 preventive healthcare; on average, almost half of adolescents have had no visits to a primary care provider  
18 within a 12-month period<sup>ii,iii</sup>, and

19 **WHEREAS**, between March and August 2020, aggregate claims for all non-COVID vaccine products for  
20 adolescents and adults have decreased between 41% and 53% across markets compared to 2019 levels<sup>iv</sup>, and

22 **WHEREAS**, in certain markets, total non-influenza adolescent vaccine claims submissions were between  
22 13-35% lower in September to November 2020 than in 2019, leading to an 8.8 million dose gap in 2020  
23 compared to 2019<sup>v</sup>, and

24 **WHEREAS**, in July 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund  
25 (UNICEF) warned that disruptions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the routine immunization  
26 program, resulting in steep declines in the number of administered doses of vaccines worldwide<sup>vi</sup> and in the  
27 United States<sup>vii,viii,ix,x</sup>, and

28 **WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends continuing vaccination services and encourages providers to assess  
29 vaccination status at each patient visit. CDC also provides guidance for maintaining safe, in-person well  
30 visits<sup>xi</sup>, and



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31 **WHEREAS**, outbreaks of childhood and adolescent vaccine-preventable diseases can cause child and  
32 adolescent school absenteeism and parent absenteeism from work, and

33 **WHEREAS**, routine childhood immunization through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is  
34 estimated to have saved payers and society \$295 billion and \$1.38 trillion, respectively<sup>xii</sup>.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association hereby  
36 recognizes that action should be taken to promote adolescent vaccination, and support the development of  
37 consistent state and local policies and programs to increase adolescent patients access and uptake of routine  
38 vaccines, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic's negative impact on vaccine coverage rates.  
39 Additionally, the National Lieutenant Governors Association urges providers and policymakers to work to  
40 remove barriers to vaccination to protect adolescents from vaccine-preventable disease.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall not be construed as advocating for a revision  
42 to a state or territory's existing vaccine mandates.

ADOPTED, this day, the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R- Iowa), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado), Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford (R – Maryland)

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<sup>i</sup>National Research and Institute of Medicine. *Adolescent Health Services: Missing Opportunities*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2009.

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12063/adolescent-health-services-missing-opportunities>.

<sup>ii</sup>Bernstein, Henry H., Joseph A. Bocchini, Committee on Infectious Diseases. "The Need to Optimize Adolescent Immunization." *Pediatrics* 139, no. 2 (March 2017). <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/139/3/e20164186>.

<sup>iii</sup>Rand, Cynthia M., Nicolas P.N. Goldstein. "Patterns of Primary Care Physician Visits for US Adolescents in 2014: Implications for Vaccination." *Academic Pediatrics* 18, no. 2S (March 2018). <https://www.academicpediatrics.net/action/showPdf?pii=S1876-2859%2818%2930007-X>.

<sup>iv</sup>Avalere Health. "The COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on U.S. Adolescent and Adult Vaccine Utilization Across Markets." February 2021.

<https://avalere.com/insights/how-covid-19-has-impacted-us-adolescent-and-adult-vaccine-utilization>. (accessed March 5, 2021).

<sup>v</sup>Avalere Health. "Updated Analysis Finds Sustained Drop in Routine Vaccines Through 2020." (June 2021). <https://avalere.com/insights/updated-analysis-finds-sustained-drop-in-routine-vaccines-through-2020>

<sup>vi</sup>WHO, UNICEF. "Progress and Challenges with Achieving Universal Immunization Coverage." July 15, 2020.

[https://www.who.int/immunization/monitoring\\_surveillance/who-immuniz.pdf](https://www.who.int/immunization/monitoring_surveillance/who-immuniz.pdf) (accessed March 5, 2021).

<sup>vii</sup>Jeanne M. Santoli, Megan C. Lindley, Malini B. DeSilva, Eric Weintraub. "Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration – United States 2020." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 69, no. 19 (May 2020). <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6919e2-H.pdf>. (accessed March 8, 2021).

<sup>viii</sup>Bramer, Cristi A., Lynsey M. Kimmins, Robert Swanson, Angela K. Shen. "Decline in Child Vaccination Coverage During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Michigan Care Improvement Registry, May 2016–May 2020." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 69, no. 20: 630–631. (May 2020).

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6920e1.htm> (accessed March 8, 2021).

<sup>ix</sup>Shapiro, Eliza. "Childhood Vaccinations Plummet 63%, a New Hurdle for NYC Schools." *The New York Times*. May 20, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/nyregion/coronavirus-schools-vaccinations.html>

<sup>x</sup>Lerner, Haley. "Recipe for Disaster: COVID-19 Leads to Kids' Vaccine Rates Falling, Risking Other Outbreaks." July 10, 2020.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/coronavirus/article244050992.html>

<sup>xi</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Interim Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>. (accessed March 12, 2021).



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<sup>xii</sup> Whitney, Cynthia G., Fangjun Zhou, James Singleton, Anne Schuchat. "Benefits from Immunization During the Vaccines for Children Program Era – United States, 1994-2013." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 63, no. 16: 352-355. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6316a4.htm>