

July 18, 2016

Dear Kansas School Nurses:

Kansas ranks among the lowest tier of states in the nation for immunization rates. The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC), a group of immunization system leaders with the goal of protecting all Kansans against vaccine-preventable diseases, is working to improve these rates.

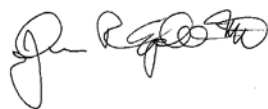
As Chair of the Immunize Kansas Coalition, I would like to share with you the model school exclusion policy that our coalition has approved and is promoting in an effort to protect students and increase immunization rates. As you review enrollment policies and plan for next year's enrollment, we encourage your school and district to take this opportunity to review and strengthen your school exclusion policy for immunizations. The attached model policy outlines specific administrative procedural steps that will strengthen the protection of your students against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions on this model policy. Please indicate your interest and availability to Denise at 800.332.0156 or [dlantz@kmsonline.org](mailto:dlantz@kmsonline.org). Annie Wallace, IKC Member and President of The Kansas School Nurse Organization, is also a resource for questions on this matter. She can be reached at [awallace@kssdb.org](mailto:awallace@kssdb.org).

Finally, I am excited to share IKC's newly launched website, ([immunizekansascoalition.org](http://immunizekansascoalition.org)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/ImmunizeKansasCoalition/](https://facebook.com/ImmunizeKansasCoalition/)) with you. On the IKC website, you'll find an HPV toolkit assembled to aid in the promotion of the HPV vaccine. We have also included a page with resources developed specifically for school nurses. We trust you will find the site useful as you continue in your work.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of our students. I look forward to working with you to strengthen Kansas' defense against the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases among children and adolescents.

Sincerely,



John Eplee, MD  
Chair, Immunize Kansas Coalition