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 Past Chair of the Immunize Kansas Coalition, I would like to share with you the model school exclusion policy that our coalition has approved in 2016 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 or Immunize Kansas Coalition 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. The Kansas School Nurse Organization is also a resource for questions on this matter.

Finally, I would like to remind you about IKC's website, (immunizekansascoalition.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/ImmunizeKansasCoalition/). On the IKC website, you'll find things such as the HPV toolkit, the meningococcal toolkit, the Tdap toolkit, and the HPV education event toolkit, that are filled with resources to aid you in the promotion of vaccines in your school. 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
Past Chair, Immunize Kansas Coalition