

Position Statement

Immunization

The Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) believes that immunization, from infancy through adulthood, is a vital component of protecting the public's health. Wide spread immunization not only protects those that have been immunized, but also provides a measure of defense to those few persons who cannot receive vaccination due to compromising health conditions.

The delivery of vaccines as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a safe, effective process for the vast majority of Americans. Adverse events associated with vaccination are extremely rare, especially when compared to the protections conferred on the majority (Maglione, M. A., et al, 2014).

ONA strongly supports immunization of all persons who are able to receive vaccines. Only a minority of persons need to be exempted due to rare medical conditions, such as an immune-compromised state, or religious objection.

While we may live in a world that supports individual choice and personal rights, we exist in a sea of others who also deserve protection of their health. Very few persons live an isolated life such that their actions have no impact on the well-being of others.

For further information, consult the list of references:

American Academy of Pediatrics. Committee on Infectious Diseases. (2015). Recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule-United States, 2015. *Pediatric*. Vol. 135, No. 2. February 2015.

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American Nurses Association. (2015) *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. General recommendations on immunization. January 28, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report/Recommendations and Reports/Vol.60/No. 2*.

Maglione, M., Das, L., Raaen, L., Smith, A., Chari, R., Newberry, S., Shanman, R., Perry, T., Goetz, M., Gidengil, C. (2014) Safety of vaccines used for routine immunizations of US children: a systematic review. *Pediatrics*, 134(2), 325-337.

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. (2014). NAPNAP Position Statement on Immunizations.

National Association of School Nurses. (January, 2015). Immunizations Position Statement.