

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DATE: March 11, 2009

TO: Executive Board
Indiana State Department of Health

FROM: Loren Robertson, M.S., R.E.H.S
Assistant Commissioner
Public Health and Preparedness Commission

SUBJECT: Re-adoption of Emergency Rule to require the immunization of all children against Hepatitis B and Chickenpox

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Commission of Public Health and Preparedness respectfully requests the Executive Board, at the Board's March 11, 2009 meeting, re-adopt this emergency rule to require the immunization of all children against hepatitis B and chickenpox. The current emergency rule will expire on April 15. Re-adoption of this rule will allow the rule to continue for an additional 90 days.

Indiana Code currently requires all children entering kindergarten or grade 1 to be immunized against chickenpox. Only children entering kindergarten or grade 1 are to be immunized against hepatitis B. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all children from kindergarten through grade 12 be immunized against these diseases.

Indiana Code allows the ISDH, through the rulemaking process, to modify the list of communicable diseases that require immunization as medical information becomes available that would warrant the modification in the interest of public health. The ISDH has initiated the rulemaking process to make this change in a permanent rule. This emergency rule is necessary to cover the interim period until a final rule can be promulgated.