

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 22-19

INTRODUCED BY: Montgomery County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Requirement for All Maryland Public and Private Kindergarten,
Elementary & Secondary School Teachers & Staff to Receive Flu
Vaccine

Whereas, children have a higher likelihood of contracting seasonal influenza due to still developing immune systems, and are more likely to develop serious complications as a result of the flu; and

Whereas, more than 500 children in Maryland were hospitalized due to influenza-associated illness during the 2017-18 seasonⁱ; and

Whereas, during the 2017-18 season, there were at least three cases on influenza-associated cases of pediatric mortality in Marylandⁱ; and

Whereas, schools have the potential to become centers of influenza outbreaks because of their large population, high levels of close social contact, and interaction with the community; and

Whereas, vaccinating teachers, administrators, other school employees, and students at risk for influenza infection and subsequent transmission to others outside the school environment could help protect one fifth of the country's population from influenzaⁱⁱ; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi support legislation or regulation that would require all kindergarten, elementary & secondary public & private school teachers, administrators, and other school employees to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine on an annual basis unless medically contraindicated as certified by a licensed physician.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on November 2, 2019.

ⁱ Maryland Department of Health. Influenza in Maryland 2017-18 Season Report. Available at: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/SiteAssets/Pages/Home/Season%20Summary%202017-2018%2011_15_18.pdf

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidance for school administrators to help reduce the spread of seasonal influenza in K-12 schools. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/guidance.htm>