

1 **Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians**
2 **2015 General Assembly**

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4 **RESOLUTION NO. 6**

5
6 **Recognizing the Importance of Vaccinations and Immunizations in Louisiana.**

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8 **Submitted by: LAFP Board of Directors**
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11 **WHEREAS**, the contributions of Louis Pasteur and Edward Jenner to the discovery of the
12 principles of vaccination and immunology are among the most consequential health findings in
13 human history; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, vaccines have been highly effective in eliminating or significantly decreasing the
16 occurrence of many once-common diseases; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, vaccines have dramatically reduced the spread of many more crippling and
19 potentially life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella,
20 and vaccines prevent the spread of commonly infectious and potentially fatal diseases such as
21 chickenpox, shingles, influenza, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningococcal disease, pneumococcal,
22 rotavirus, and whooping cough (pertussis); and

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24 **WHEREAS**, the scientific and medical communities are in overwhelming consensus that vaccines
25 are both effective and safe, and the dissemination of unfounded, and debunked, theories about
26 the dangers of vaccinations pose a great risk to public health, and scientifically sound education
27 and outreach campaigns about vaccination and immunization are fundamental for a well-
28 informed public; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, adults and children die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases or their
31 complications in Louisiana, and the health and livelihood of young children, seniors, individuals
32 with immunodeficiency disorders, and those who cannot be vaccinated, is particularly
33 compromised by communities with low vaccination rates; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, substantial research has shown that vaccination is a highly cost-effective form of
36 preventive medicine; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, vaccinations will prevent hospitalizations and deaths among children born in the last
39 20 years; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, children still lack access to even the most basic vaccines and as a result, children die
42 from vaccine-preventable conditions such as diarrhea and pneumonia or suffer from
43 permanently debilitating illnesses; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, a strong investment in medical research to improve existing vaccines and develop
46 many more life-saving vaccines is beneficial to all, both at home and abroad, and a robust

47 immunization infrastructure is essential to the public health and well-being of the people of
48 Louisiana by preventing and isolating outbreaks of contagious diseases where they start; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, encouraging high vaccination rates in Louisiana protects our citizens from
51 contracting vaccine-preventable diseases that are pandemic in countries with low vaccination
52 and immunization rates; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, routine and up-to-date immunization is the most effective method available to
55 prevent the infection and transmission of potentially fatal diseases; and

56 Whereas Louisiana has been a leader in promoting vaccinations throughout the state, therefore,
57 be it

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59 **RESOLVED**, the Louisiana Academy Family Physicians

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61 (1) commends the community, health organizations, the private sector, school and community
62 leaders, and faith-based organizations for their tireless work and immense contributions to
63 bolstering our state health through vaccination;

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65 (2) affirms vaccines and immunizations save lives and are essential to maintain the public health,
66 economic and security of the people of Louisiana;

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68 (3) recognizes that the lack of vaccination can cause a true public health crisis, and that there is
69 no credible evidence to show that vaccines cause life-threatening or disabling diseases in
70 healthy children or adults;

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72 (4) encourages a continued commitment to research to improve vaccines and to develop new
73 vaccines against other infectious and fatal diseases; and

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75 (5) urges parents, in consultation with their health care provider, to follow the scientific
76 evidence and consensus of medical experts in favor of timely vaccinations to protect their
77 children and their community; and further be it

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79 **RESOLVED**, the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP) endorses the concept that all
80 children and adults, regardless of economic and insurance status, should have access to all
81 immunizations recommended by the AAFP; and further be it

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83 **RESOLVED**, LAFP strongly recommends that patients receive all immunizations recommended by
84 the AAFP in their medical home and when recommended vaccines are provided outside of the
85 medical home, all pertinent vaccine related information should be provided to the patient's
86 medical home.

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88 **Background Information**

89 **Policy of the AAFP**

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91 **Access**

92 The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) endorses the concept that all children and
93 adults, regardless of economic and insurance status, should have access to all immunizations
94 recommended by the AAFP.

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96 **Cost of**

97 The AAFP believes that the vaccine manufacturers and distributors should have payment
98 policies that minimize the physicians' financial risk involved in maintaining a vaccine inventory.

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100 Government programs (e.g., Vaccines for Children (VFC), 317 Immunization Grants, or state
101 "universal purchasing") that subsidize the costs of vaccines at no cost to medical practices
102 should be adequately funded by the federal and state government.

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104 Requiring clinicians to stock separate supplies of vaccines for the VFC Program and for persons
105 covered by other payers can be burdensome and adds unnecessary administrative costs to
106 practices. Therefore, AAFP recommends that states allow physicians to intermingle storage of
107 VFC and other vaccine supplies, with appropriate documentation and cost accounting.

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109 **Coverage of**

110 The AAFP believes that all public and private insurers should include as a covered benefit
111 immunizations recommended by the AAFP without co-payments or deductibles.

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113 **Distribution**

114 The AAFP believes that the ultimate goal is to have vaccine manufacturers and distributors
115 deliver adequate, timely, and complete orders of immunizations recommended by the AAFP to
116 family physicians in a prioritized manner to most effectively achieve vaccination of patients
117 within their medical home.

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119 **Medical Home**

120 AAFP strongly recommends that patients receive all immunizations recommended by the AAFP
121 in their medical home. When recommended vaccines are provided outside of the medical home
122 all pertinent vaccine related information should be provided to the patient's medical home.

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124 **Payment of**

125 Where medical practices incur a cost for vaccines, the AAFP calls for adequate payment for the
126 vaccine itself and all associated overhead costs (i.e., acquisition, storage, inventory, insurance,
127 spoilage/wastage, etc.) of all immunizations recommended by the AAFP and their administration
128 with no patient cost-sharing, as well as covering an evaluation and management (E/M) service
129 during the same visit, when a significant and separately identifiable E/M service is provided and
130 documented.

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132 **Supply**

133 The AAFP believes that vaccine manufacturers should develop contingency plans for the timing
134 and prioritization of vaccine supplies if an ample supply of the immunizations recommended by
135 the AAFP is delayed and/or reduced.

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137 (2008) (2013 COD)