

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- WHEREAS, Addressing the spread of disease-causing microorganisms in schools is essential to the health of our youth, our schools and our nation;¹ and
- WHEREAS, Hand washing is the single most important way to prevent the spread of microorganisms;^{2,3,4} and
- WHEREAS, Children should be taught to turn and cough into their shoulders or elbows if they cannot cover their mouths and noses with a tissue;^{5,6,7} and
- WHEREAS, Donning a face mask is an easy way to boost protection from severe respiratory illnesses such as influenza, as well as a good way to prevent the spread of microorganisms to others;^{8,9,10} and
- WHEREAS, Many children, adolescents, and adults in our communities are not fully immunized and remain at risk for vaccine preventable diseases;^{11,12,13,14} and
- WHEREAS, Utah does not require the bacterial meningitis vaccine and since the occurrence of meningococcal disease increases during adolescence, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination of all persons 11-18 years of age;^{15,16,17,18} and
- WHEREAS, Studies have proven that there is no link between Thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative that was used in several types of vaccines up until the late 1990's, and increased risk of autism;^{19,20,21} and
- WHEREAS, Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death, thus the CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses;^{22,23,24} now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work with the Utah Department of Health, the Utah State Office of Education, the School Nurses Association and other appropriate organizations to educate parents and teachers about how to prevent the spread of communicable diseases; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support legislative efforts to protect children and youth from communicable diseases through vaccinations or other prevention methods allowing for medical, religious, and personal exemptions; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support legislation and programs to educate parents on the importance of having their children properly and fully immunized against serious, vaccine-preventable diseases and the importance of preventing their spread.

Documentation:

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