



**DATE:** January 13, 2016

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Background and Summary:**

According to statute (RCW 28A.210.140), the Board has the authority to adopt rules on immunizations for school and day care attendance, and rules that establish requirements for “full immunization.” The Board’s rules pertaining to child care and school children’s vaccinations are contained in Chapter 246-105 WAC, Immunization of Child Care and School Children against Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases. WAC 246-105-040 references the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommended immunization schedule to determine the ages and dose intervals for these vaccine preventable diseases. The ACIP updates the national immunization recommendations frequently to reflect evolving scientific research findings. Most physicians follow the ACIP’s recommendations for ages and dose intervals for vaccines. The rule currently references the 2013 version of the MMWR article describing the ACIP’s recommended schedule.

In December of 2015, the Board received a letter from the department requesting delegation of its authority to adopt the 2016 ACIP immunization schedule which is referenced in WAC 246-105-040. No substantive changes are expected in the 2016 immunization schedule. Additionally, this request is in accordance with the Board’s delegation policy (policy number 2000-001) as outlined in the memo from the department to the Board.

Michele Roberts, Director of the Department of Health’s Office of Immunization and Child Profile, is available to answer any questions concerning the department’s request for limited delegation of rulemaking.

**Recommended Board Action:**

*The Board delegates to the Department of Health the authority to update the ACIP reference in WAC 246-105-040 as long as no substantive changes are introduced in 2016 as expected.*

**Staff: Tara Wolff**