

Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC)

Purpose Statement

The District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC) is a collaboration of representatives from clinical settings, public health, health plans, professional organizations, educational institutions, community-based organizations and others invested in the prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases in the District of Columbia.

The charge of IPAC is:

- To advise DOH in planning, implementing and evaluating immunization activities;
- To provide leadership in communicating and disseminating information to enhance immunization education, awareness and advocacy;
- To provide feedback and support for new immunization initiatives.

What is IPAC?

The District of Columbia Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC) is a core group of health and medical professionals involved in educating about and/or delivering immunizations to children, adolescents and adults.

History

In January 2001, the DC Public Schools (DCPS) Immunization Task Force was formed to address the high immunization non-compliance rate among DCPS students. The charge for the committee was later held by the DC Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF) which focused on increasing immunization compliance among the District's Medicaid participants. In December 2015, DOH worked with multiple stakeholders to establish the DC Immunization Practices Advisory Committee which focuses on immunizations across the lifespan.

What is IPAC's mission?

IPAC's mission is to advise and assist the DOH Immunization Program in reducing and eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases across the lifespan through a comprehensive District wide immunization program.

How does IPAC accomplish its mission?

- IPAC provides advice to the DOH Immunization Program to ensure that immunization policies are effective in clinical and educational settings
- Members represent their identified group affiliation as policies and activities are discussed.

- Members convey information on issues and recommendations to the groups they represent as well as any affiliated groups.
- Members participate in workgroups and assist DOH with implementing interventions that support the objectives of the immunization program.

Who are the members?

The membership comes from a variety of health care professions (e.g., physicians, nurses, local health officials) who have a professional investment in providing best practices in immunization services. Members also represent a variety of organizations including K-12 and post-secondary schools, health care and public health.

How are members appointed/selected?

Candidates for membership can be nominated by current members or DOH staff. Once a voting member candidate is identified, they must seek their respective organization/institution's endorsement. Liaison members do not require endorsement, but are required to notify their employer of their participation using the IPAC Participation Notification Form.

How long does a member serve?

IPAC voting members serve a two or three year term. The DOH reserves the right to select and renew members to serve on the committee. Liaison members are expected to serve a minimum of a two year term.

How often does IPAC meet?

The full IPAC meets four times a year: March, June, September and December. Subcommittees based on specific immunization topics will meet once a month or as needed.

How does the committee address conflict of interest issues?

A conflict of interest is a situation in which an advisory committee member, his/her organization or a family member would personally benefit based on the outcome of a particular decision made or action taken by IPAC. Members are asked on an annual basis to declare any conflict of interest via a Conflict of Interest Statement. They are also asked to exclude themselves from voting on any matter that creates a conflict of interest.