

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY  
2 RESOLUTION

3  
4 **Increasing Immunizations Rates of Vermonters**

5  
6 *Adopted on October 3, 2009*  
7

8 WHEREAS, Immunizations have been one of the most important health interventions  
9 of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and have eliminated smallpox infections worldwide, driven polio  
10 from North America, and made formerly common infections like diphtheria, tetanus,  
11 measles, and invasive Haemophilus influenzae (HIB) infections extremely rare  
12 occurrences; and

13 WHEREAS, In the United States alone, it is estimated that more than 14 million  
14 children a year thwart diseases through immunizations, preventing more than 33,000  
15 deaths a year, and 3 million deaths worldwide; and

16 WHEREAS, Vaccines are 90-99% effective at preventing disease; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite the success and efficacy of immunizations parents and adults  
18 increasingly continue to refuse immunizations for their children and themselves; and

19 WHEREAS, A decrease in immunizations has lead to significant outbreaks of vaccine  
20 preventable diseases (such as measles, H Flu type B (HIB) and pertussis); and

21 WHEREAS, Vaccine-preventable diseases occur everyday in other parts of the world  
22 and remain only an airplane ride away; and

23 WHEREAS, The reasons for not immunizing, i.e. “too many vaccines”, “concerns about  
24 safety”, “fear of autism”, “concerns about mercury”, “media misinformation”, “children  
25 are too little” and the “absence of disease” in the US – are many commonly held beliefs  
26 about risks and are not supported by data; and

27 WHEREAS, There are multiple studies which show the safety of vaccines and no  
28 correlation between vaccines and autism; and

29 WHEREAS, The benefits provided by most vaccines extend beyond benefit to the  
30 individual who is immunized - there is also significant public health benefit; and

31 WHEREAS, Vaccines are important for adults and adolescents as well as children; and

32 WHEREAS, Far too many adults become ill, are disabled, and die each year from  
33 diseases that could easily have been prevented by vaccines; and

34 WHEREAS, Decreases in the percentage of people who are immunized, can result in  
35 social and economic as well as physical costs: sick children miss school, parents lose  
36 time from work, and illness among healthcare practitioners can severely disrupt a  
37 healthcare system; therefore be it

1 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society encourages its members to**  
2 **actively participate in the Vermont Department of Health Immunization**  
3 **Program; and be it further**

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5 **actively participate in the Vermont Department of Health Immunization**  
6 **Registry; and be it further**

7 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society collaborates with the American**  
8 **Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT), the Vermont Academy of**  
9 **Family Physicians (VAFP) and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to**  
10 **educate their members and the public about the importance of fully immunizing**  
11 **the population; and be it further**

12 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society supports activities and work**  
13 **together with the AAPVT, VAFP and the VDH to achieve the highest**  
14 **immunization rates possible.**