



## Supporting Families, Children, and Schools in 2024/2025

This letter is coming to you on behalf of the nearly 2,000 pediatricians in Illinois who are members of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We share similar goals to help keep your children healthy, happy, and safe!

We know it feels like summer just started, but as you prepare for the 2024/2025 school year, we hope you will make sure that your children are caught up on their vaccinations. Vaccines protect against measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, and other diseases that can make your child sick or cause them to miss school! These vaccines are also required for school attendance in Illinois. As doctors dedicated to caring for children, we know and have seen firsthand how important vaccines are and trust the well-proven benefits of vaccines, some of which include:

- Saving lives
- Reducing complications of illnesses
- Less hospitalizations
- Lowering the spread of certain diseases (sometimes even stopping them all together!)
- Keeping families and communities safer

We know there is SO much information about health and vaccines out there and that it might be hard to know what *good, true information is*. Bad or false information about vaccines being shared has resulted in lower vaccination rates across the country. This is why we are seeing “old” diseases, like measles, spread again. You trust your pediatrician in so many ways with your child’s health and we hope our recommendation to ensure your child is vaccinated is no different.

Please plan ahead to make sure your entire family has all their vaccines as soon as possible – especially before children are back in school. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your child’s doctor. You can get more information at [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org). And have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics