

CONNETQUOT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ISLIP

This School District is Taking a Stand – Other Districts Need to Follow Their Lead



CONNETQUOT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ISLIP

CENTRAL OFFICES: 780 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, New York 11716-3629

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Board of Education

Milynn Augulis, *President*

Eileen Panico, *Vice President*

Lee Kennedy, *Trustee*

Jaclyn Napolitano-Furno, *Trustee*

Mark Warshaw, *Trustee*

Lynda G. Adams, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Mary Jane Budde, *District Clerk*

Dear Governor Cuomo & Elected Officials:

Currently an amendment to Section 2164 of the public health law is presented in the New York State Senate. This section details the mandatory immunization of all public school children. The proposed amendment would add an additional immunization against the human papillomavirus (HPV). The Connetquot Board of Education vehemently protests this addition.

In a public school setting, there are a variety of ways that students can contract diseases from other students. The most prevalent of which is the lack of cleanliness of student's hands and/or the spread of respiratory droplets containing contagious virus and/or bacteria (i.e. sneezing, coughing, and mucus discharge from noses). These vectors of contagion are the predominant vehicles for the spread of the diseases prevented by the mandated student vaccination program. (See chart below).

| Disease | Infection Vector |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Poliomyelitis | Fecal contaminant, respiratory droplet |
| Mumps | Respiratory droplet |
| Measles | Respiratory droplet |
| Diphtheria | Respiratory droplet |
| Rubella | Respiratory droplet |
| Varicella | Respiratory droplet, contact with blisters |
| Haemophilus influenza B (HIB) | Respiratory droplet |
| Pertussis | Respiratory droplet |
| Tetanus | Infection of cut or puncture with infected soil, dust, fecal matter or spit |
| Pneumococcal disease | Respiratory droplet |
| Meningococcal disease | Respiratory and throat secretions |
| Hepatitis B | Blood, semen, saliva or vaginal fluids |

However, according to the American Cancer Society, "HPV can be passed from one person to another by skin-to-skin contact, such as occurs with sexual activity. The main way HPV is spread is through sexual activity, including vaginal, anal, and oral sex. HPV can be spread even when an infected person has no visible signs or symptoms. The virus can also be spread by genital contact without sex, although this is not common."

You cannot get HPV from:

- Toilet seats
- Hugging or holding hands
- Swimming pools or hot tubs
- Sharing food or utensils
- Being “unclean”¹

As public schools are not places where students are engaged in the activities that cause the spread of HPV, how then, can HPV be considered a public health risk that requires mandatory immunization prior to attending school? According to MED Shadow, while the “post-marketing safety and surveillance data indicate that that Gardasil 9 is ‘well-tolerated and safe’”, still “many physicians have hesitated to recommend it based on its potential side effect, which range from more mild (pain at the injection site, fever and fainting) to adverse events (autoimmune and neurological disorders, anaphylaxis and death).” “In clinical trials of 30,000 people, potential side effects ranging from fever to death.” Although no clear causation pathway has been determined, in the August 2009 Journal of the American Medical Association, it was reported that in the first 30 months of administration of the vaccine, more than 12,000 adverse reactions to the immunization were reported (a rate of 53 reports per 100,000 doses distributed). Among those 772 were considered a serious reaction, including 32 reported deaths. To date, 200 claims have been filed with the Department of Health and Human Services’ National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program which has paid out nearly \$6 million to 49 victims.²

Beyond that the spread of HPV is not due to normal school activity, perhaps the biggest differential between mandating the list of current recommended immunizations and the mandating of the additional immunization against HPV is the immediacy of the disease. All of the immunizations currently mandated have an incubation period within days to weeks after contact with the infection vector. According to the National Cancer Institute, HPV vaccines protect against infection with human papillomaviruses. HPV is a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which about a dozen types can cause certain types of cancer. While Gardasil 9 prevents infection with HPV types 16 and 18, two HPVs that cause about 70% of cervical cancers, as well as HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, which together account for 10-20% of cervical cancers, cancer takes 10 to 20 years to develop so it is too early to look at the long-term effect of HPV vaccinations.³

• ¹ <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/infectious-agents/hpv/hpv-and-cancer-info.html?scrllybrkr=769a4daa>

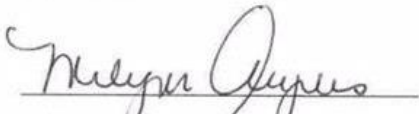
² https://medshadow.org/pros-cons-hpv-vaccine/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwrrXtBRCKARIsAMbU6bFVdozPOX5LCWQdIMxc7-1Et0a6QScKawEG1aFWj44P-TBJQaU71_gaAuTweALw_wcB

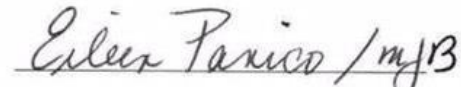
³ <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-vaccine-fact-sheet?scrllybrkr=b7ca08b4>

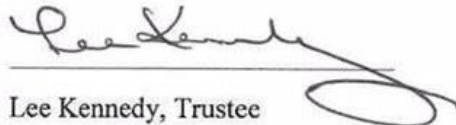
At this time, a parent may choose to have their child(ren) vaccinated against HPV. As this disease is neither spread by children, nor life threatening to children, there is no public health risk to children associated with the failure of a parent to immunize their child(ren). If this bill passes, it will preclude children from being able to access a public-school education based upon a parental determination that immunization as a "potential preventative measure" is not worth the potential risks.

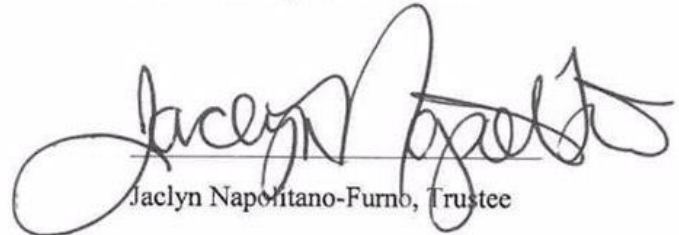
The Board of Education of Connetquot Central School District strongly objects to the addition of the HPV vaccination as a requirement for students in the state to attend public schools and asks our elected public officials to vote against this bill.

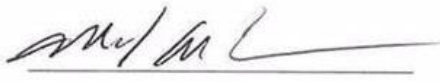
Sincerely,


Milynn Augulis, President


Eileen Panico, Vice President


Lee Kennedy, Trustee

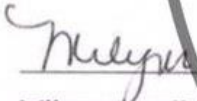

Jaclyn Napolitano-Furno, Trustee


Mark Warshaw, Trustee

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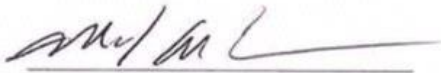
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Milynn Augulis,

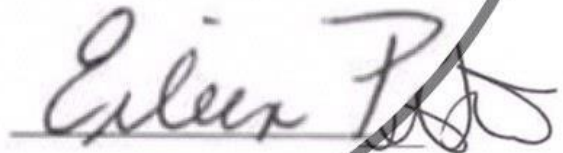


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Eileen Par, Trustee