General Vaccine Advocacy Support

- IDSA supports the CDC-recommended vaccine schedule.
- Vaccines save the lives of an estimated 42,000 children each year in the United States and are one of the greatest tools we have for preventing disease.
- High vaccination rates in the population help stop the spread of vaccine preventable diseases. When vaccination rates drop in a community the risk of an outbreak is increased significantly.
- Vaccine preventable diseases can result in hospitalization and death.
- Vaccines are backed by decades of scientific data demonstrating their safety and efficacy and are some of the most rigorously tested and observed public health interventions.
- The Vaccines for Children program, which provides immunizations to children in the United States who are unable to afford them, has saved nearly $259 billion in direct medical costs in the last 25 years.

Discussing a proposal to expand exemptions to childhood vaccine requirements

IDSA believes that the only exemption for vaccination should be medical counterindication. When parents choose not to vaccinate their children, they not only putting their own children at risk, but also children who are too young, immunocompromised, or otherwise contraindicated to receive the vaccine. These individuals depend on herd, or community, immunity, which is only effective when high immunization rates are maintained. In several of the recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, some of the children who got sick were too young to have already gotten the vaccine themselves.

Discussing an informed consent proposal

Vaccinating a child according to the CDC vaccine schedule is the standard of care for pediatricians. The CDC schedule is the result of decades of scientific and clinical testing by experts. A bill aimed at requiring physicians to review every potential adverse event is nothing more than an attempt to inaccurately scare parents out of vaccinating their children by describing outcomes that are experienced by less than one in a million children, and which often cannot be definitively linked back to the vaccination itself.

Discussing healthcare personnel exemption proposal

Public health and healthcare workers are the first line of response to outbreaks and health emergencies. They are at a significantly higher risk of being exposed to vaccine preventable diseases and closely interact with many other sick patients who may be at greater risk for infection. Forcing a healthcare facility to hire individuals who do not meet the facility’s vaccination requirements unnecessarily endangers patients.

Please contact IDSA if you need talking points for a specific proposal not covered above.