



February 18, 2015

Dear Marin Council Scouting Families,

The development of vaccines has been one of the great accomplishments of the modern era, preventing the spread and in some cases leading to the eradication of dangerous diseases in our country. Our individual wellbeing as well as overall public safety depends upon each of us obtaining vaccinations and keeping them current.

The Marin Council, Boy Scouts of America follows BSA National policies regarding vaccination. That policy is as follows:

ARTICLE ONE: For the benefit of individual health as well as that of the community in general, it is the Boy Scouts of America national policy that members of the organization adhere to the joint recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians with regard to obtaining age-appropriate immunizations.

ARTICLE TWO: When attending Boy Scouts of America programs or activities that require an annual health and medical record or specialty physical exam to be completed, it is required to have current tetanus immunization. The following immunizations are strongly recommended.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Hepatitis A | Meningococcal | Varicella |
| Hepatitis B | Polio | Influenza |
| Diphtheria, pertussis | Measles, mumps, rubella | |

ARTICLE THREE: Persons attending national Scouting events or council and district events requiring an annual health and medical record or specialty physical exam be completed will be allowed to attend if they have not received the above immunizations, but a medical alert must be noted on the individual's physical form. Event sponsors, such as a jamboree or camping program headquarters, must maintain the ability to identify inadequately immunized participants and locate them in case of a necessity for isolation or quarantine as per local public health official directives. Exceptions to tetanus immunization will be accepted for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons. *(An Immunization Exemption Request Form is required for individuals lacking immunization. That form is available online or by request)*

While a great deal of misinformation has circulated as of late, the importance of vaccinations as a matter of public health cannot be overstated. Polio is absent from our shores and smallpox has been completely eradicated thanks to vaccines. As Scouts and Scouters, it's our role to lead in these efforts...for after all, "A Scout is Helpful" and what could be more helpful than preventing and perhaps eradicating disease.

Yours in Scouting,

David E. Goodman, M.D. M.S.E
Executive Board Member
MCBSA Physician

J. Claude Hemphill, M.D., M.A.S.
Executive Board Member
MCBSA Physician

Peter W. Sullivan, M.D.
Executive Board Member
MCBSA Physician