



## SPN Position Statement: Immunizations

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*All SPN Position statements are valid for two years after approval date.*

For over 50 years, immunizations have proven to reduce the number of vaccine-preventable diseases more than 90%<sup>1</sup>. Not only do immunizations protect the individual by providing immunity, but they also protect others around them who are not immune<sup>2</sup>. Immunizations are one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions, preventing 40,000 deaths and saving \$69 billion in the U.S. annually<sup>3, 4</sup>. Recent outbreaks and the global COVID-19 pandemic reinforce the importance of adherence to recommended immunization schedules including annual flu vaccines<sup>5</sup>.

The Society of Pediatric Nurses endorses the Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices recommended by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee and approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services<sup>6</sup>. The Society supports the following:

- Support the recommendation that all children should receive immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases according to the best and most current evidence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices<sup>7</sup>.
- Protect children and adolescents from vaccine preventable diseases by raising parental awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations.
- Empower healthcare professionals to communicate in culturally effective ways with parents about vaccines.
- Inform patients, parents, and/or legal guardians about the benefits of vaccines in preventing diseases in individuals and in the community and about the risks of those vaccines.
- Advocate for patient and family-centered teaching that addresses parent concerns about anti-vaccination ideas.
- Improve immunization delivery practices in community and office-based care settings.
- Advocate the need to develop immunization education and training material.
- Support ongoing research and delivery of vaccinations as novel diseases like influenzas and COVID-19 emerge.

## REFERENCES

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