



525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.dph.illinois.gov

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Don Harmon, President Illinois Senate
Room 309 G Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker Illinois House of Representatives
Room 300 Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Dear President Harmon and Speaker Welch:

The Mercury-Free Vaccine Act (410 ILCS 51/1 et seq.) prohibits the administration of vaccines containing mercury, whether as a preservative or in trace amounts. The Act also requires IDPH to implement a policy to distribute, preferentially, influenza vaccines that are thimerosal-free or contain only trace amounts of thimerosal for the immunization of children under the age of 3 who are participating in the Vaccines for Children program, provided that the supply of influenza vaccines to health care providers is not impeded by the exercise of this preference, and to annually communicate this policy to the General Assembly. This letter serves to notify the General Assembly that the Department only distributes thimerosal-free influenza vaccine through its Vaccines for Children and Adult Immunization Program serving Illinois providers outside of the City of Chicago.

In addition, pursuant to the requirements of Section 15 of the Act, IDPH is notifying the General Assembly that it issued communication to health care providers on December 29, 2025, notifying them about the requirements of the Act and about thimerosal-free vaccines (see attachment). This notice has been posted at dph.illinois.gov/immunization.

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact Allison Nickrent, Division Chief of Governmental Affairs, (217) 785-4650 or allison.nickrent@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA
Director, Illinois Department of Public Health

Attachment: Health care provider notification

C:

The Honorable John Curran, Senator, 110 D Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706
The Honorable Tony McCombie, Representative, 316 Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Department Administrators
All Illinois Vaccine Providers

FROM: IDPH Immunization Section

DATE: December 29, 2025

RE: **Mercury-Free Vaccine Act**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is providing annual notice about the requirements of the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act (410 ILCS 51/1 et seq.).

Under the Act, no person shall be vaccinated with a vaccine or injected with any product that contains, or prior to dilution, had contained as an additive, any mercury-based product, whether at preservative or trace amount levels.

Decades of scientific evidence demonstrates that thimerosal is safe at the levels used in vaccines. In accordance with the Act, if an actual or potential public health emergency arises, including a bioterrorist incident, epidemic, or vaccine shortage, IDPH may issue temporary exemptions of vaccines from this Act. You will be notified if this occurs.

IDPH continues to procure and distribute only thimerosal-free influenza vaccines for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Adult Immunization Programs and will maintain annual notifications to providers and the General Assembly on thimerosal-free vaccine availability as required by the Act.

Health care providers are recommended to discuss and offer influenza vaccination to all individuals ages 6 months and older. IDPH's respiratory virus season and other immunization guidance can be found at dph.illinois.gov/immunization.

For questions, contact the IDPH Immunization Section at dph.vaccines@illinois.gov or 217-785-1455, option 2.

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