



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

MAR 18 2009

Ms. Priscilla Huang
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 506
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

Dear Ms. Huang:

Thank you for your letters expressing concerns regarding the inclusion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a requirement for immigrants seeking adjustment of status to permanent United States resident status.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops written recommendations for the routine administration of vaccines to children and civilian adults in the United States. ACIP recommendations that are adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — and by extension, the Department of Health and Human Services — serve as standards of medical practice and do not constitute legal requirements for vaccination of U.S. civilians. However, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) requires immigrants and individuals seeking permanent residence to the United States to present documentation of having received vaccination against vaccine-preventable diseases, which shall include at least the following diseases: mumps, measles, rubella, polio, tetanus and diphtheria toxoids, pertussis, haemophilus influenzae type b, hepatitis B, and any other vaccinations against vaccine-preventable diseases recommended by ACIP. Based on this statute, all routine immunization recommendations made by ACIP for the U.S. civilian population have been required for immigrant visa applicants. We are currently reviewing the process used for implementing the INA vaccination mandate.

A CDC workgroup has been formed to address issues related to all vaccines for immigrants. The process is moving forward, and the workgroup is working toward a resolution to this issue, taking into account the vaccines in question as well as public health, legal, and policy aspects. This is a very complicated issue involving multiple federal agencies as well as statutory requirements.

I appreciate your interest in this important public health matter. Please share this response with the national and international organizations and individuals supporting your concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Besser, M.D.
Acting Director