



Bulletin Explains Key Points of Law on Immunizations for Children

In recent years, several new vaccines have been added to immunization schedules for children and adolescents. Some are required by North Carolina law—for example, the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster for children entering sixth grade. Others are recommended, but not required, such as the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for adolescent girls. In light of these changes, public officials—and parents—may wish to review a new School of Government publication, *Immunizations for Children and Adolescents: Frequently Asked Questions about North Carolina's Laws* (Health Law Bulletin no. 91) by Jill Moore.

A convenient question-and-answer format provides specific answers to a wide range of questions. For example:

- Are children who are homeschooled required to be immunized?
- Who qualifies for a medical exemption?
- Who qualifies for a religious exemption? How is a religious exemption documented?
- Suppose a school requests a copy of a child's immunization record. Must the parent give authorization for the record to be disclosed to the school?
- What are the legal consequences of refusing to immunize a child?

The complete bulletin is available for free viewing or downloading. Go to www.sog.unc.edu/, and click on Publications.

School Gets Grant to Study Economic Opportunities

In June 2009 the Community and Economic Development Program at the School of Government, in part-

nership with the Center for Economic Research and Policy Analysis at Appalachian State University, received a grant to prepare a report on economic opportunities in distressed rural areas. The \$90,000 grant was awarded to Appalachian State by the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center. The School's portion is \$33,000.

The report is scheduled for completion by January 2010. Its intended audience is rural leaders in the eighty-five North Carolina counties served by the center.

The School team, led by faculty member C. Tyler Mulligan, will produce a report highlighting strategies that rural leaders can apply to reduce poverty, develop assets, and build community wealth.

"The School is a good match for this particular research effort," according to Mulligan. "Faculty here are already working with leaders in rural areas that are hard hit by poverty, so we're well-positioned to conduct the research and package it in a way that is helpful to leaders around the state."

Mulligan emphasized that the School will work with rural leaders to implement the strategies identified in the report. "The purpose of this report won't be served if it collects dust on a shelf," Mulligan explained. "We intend to incorporate the research into School training programs and assist leaders as they translate the report's findings into concrete action."

Research by the School team is intended to complement the work of partners in the effort. A team from Appalachian State University will analyze the circumstances of North Carolina residents living on the economic margins, and a private consultant will develop a resource directory for rural leaders working in distressed areas.

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