

Dear Ohio House & Senate Members,

Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom along with OH citizens and other Ohio organizations, are asking you to call for Ohio Director of Health, Bruce Vanderhoff, to rescind his 2/4/2026 “Approved Means of Immunization” journal entry citing authority under ORC Section 3701.13 Department of health – powers. Section (B)(4) which is supposed to “encourage vaccination” is instead is being abused by the Department of Health to implement segregation of healthy Ohio children and the coercion and punishment of their parents who lawfully exercising their right to vaccine exemptions for school attendance.

School districts and parents across Trumbull, Ashtabula, and Geauga County have received letters from Health Director Vanderhoff who issued an ORDER on 2/4/26 citing authority under Section 3701.13 to order healthy unvaccinated children to be excluded from school and all school and sports activities for 21-25 days if there is 1 reported case of measles or rubella, or if there are 3 cases of chickenpox or mumps reported at the school, regardless of whether the child was exposed. This 21-25 day exclusion RE-STARTS EVERY TIME a new case is reported!

Health Director Vanderhoff is setting school EXCLUSION policy for timeframes and infections that are NOT listed in ORC to exclude totally healthy unvaccinated children from school and activities, as a COERCION tactic to BULLY parents into submitting to vaccination against their conscience out of desperation. “Being fully vaccinated allows your child to remain in the school setting in the unfortunate event of an outbreak.” – Vanderhoff

The average Ohio parent can NOT manage having their child doing school from home remotely for WEEKS to MONTHS. How many students will lose out on sports or other college scholarships because they were obstructed from sports and in person learning. Remote learning also has detrimental effects on learning and mental health. We should send home sick children, NOT healthy ones. COVID already taught us the level of damage that remote learning causes our children in the name of “public health.”

Not only is Vanderhoff’s order over-reaching and an infringement on the right of conscience and religious freedom, it is also devoid of scientific merit. According to a 2007 study from the CDC, there is waning immunity after two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. This study showed that 35% of VACCINATED 7-year-olds, 60% of VACCINATED 15-year-olds, and OVER 60% of VACCINATED adults are able to carry and SPREAD MEASLES WITHOUT signs of infection. Vanderhoff has also not taken into account that the MMR vaccine is a live vaccine that can “shed” to others for 21 days. Recently vaccinated children are never excluded from school. There are also many outbreaks of measles in fully vaccinated communities documented in scientific literature. The reality is, “herd immunity” to measles is nothing but a scientific fairytale.

It is absurd to discriminate against healthy unvaccinated children when more than 60% of the teachers, bus drivers and other school staff are able to carry and spread measles to students. If health Director Vanderhoff's concern was preventing transmission of measles then he would require the schools to shut down for the duration of an outbreak rather than just excluding healthy, unvaccinated children as a punishment for their parents' choices.

Exclusion from school will also indicate the child's vaccination status to staff, other students, and parents. This can easily lead to a culture of wrongfully labeling an unvaccinated student as "dangerous", "diseased", or a "health risk" to others. This could incite social exclusion leading to depression, and even suicide. The Ohio legislature needs to quickly decide whether or not Ohio is going to be a state that continues to allow the segregation and discrimination of healthy children and the coercion punishment of their parents for exercising their right of conscience. We should Pass HB 561 Parental CHOICE Act promptly to ensure the continued gross over-reach of the Ohio Department of Health into school exclusion policy is ended.

We are asking House and Senate Republicans to call on Director Vanderhoff to IMMEDIATELY rescind every part of his order that references school or activity exclusion BEYOND what is allowed under current law Sec. 3313.671 (C). This section allows exclusion for "chickenpox" ONLY for a "chicken pox epidemic" which is defined as "the occurrence of cases of chicken pox in numbers greater than expected in the school's population or for a particular period of time." There is NOTHING in state law allowing exclusion of HEALTHY unvaccinated children for Measles, Mumps, or Rubella. If Vanderhoff refuses to reverse these exclusion requirements then we are asking the House and senate Republican caucus ask Governor DeWine to remove Vanderhoff as Health Director and replace him with someone who will respect the right of conscience for Ohio parents and protect children from the negative effects of discrimination and segregation.

As Representatives of the people of this state it is your duty to TAKE ACTION to PROTECT the rights of citizens and the right of children to access a public education free of discrimination and segregation. OAMF membership is asking for a prompt action from Republican leadership to protect the 5.7% of children around the state utilizing vaccine exemptions and ensure they are not denied access to education and sports opportunities due to unbridled government over reach by the Ohio department of health.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Stock,
Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, President
& the following organizations, healthcare providers, and Ohio citizen signees: