

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health and Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #2**

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5 **Resolution in Support of Making Chickenpox a Reportable Vaccine-**
6 **Preventable Disease**

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8 **WHEREAS**, chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious viral infection that poses
9 significant health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations, such as infants, pregnant
10 women, immunocompromised individuals, and adults at higher risk for complications;
11 and

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13 **WHEREAS**, vaccination is a safe and effective method for preventing chickenpox and
14 its associated complications; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, robust public health surveillance is essential for monitoring disease
17 incidence, identifying outbreaks, and evaluating the effectiveness of vaccination efforts.

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19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, New York State shall amend the list of
20 reportable diseases to include chickenpox (varicella) as a reportable vaccine-preventable
21 disease; and

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23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, healthcare providers, laboratories, and other entities
24 involved in diagnosing and treating cases of chickenpox shall be required to report all
25 confirmed and suspected cases to New York State Department of Health promptly upon
26 diagnosis; and

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28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the reporting requirements shall include relevant
29 data necessary for public health surveillance and monitoring; and

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31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Department of Health
32 (NYSDOH) shall establish clear guidelines and procedures for reporting chickenpox
33 cases, including the use of standardized case definitions and reporting formats; and

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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH shall ensure the confidentiality and
36 privacy of individuals whose information is reported in accordance with all applicable
37 laws and regulations; and

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH shall provide training and resources to
40 healthcare providers, laboratories, and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate
41 compliance with the reporting requirements; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Department of Health shall
44 notify all authorized vaccine providers, including healthcare providers, healthcare
45 facilities, and community organizations, of new requirements, the importance of

1 recording adult vaccinations, and the benefits of participating in the NYSIIS and CIR;
2 and

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH shall regularly analyze and publish
5 reports on chickenpox incidence and vaccination coverage based on the data collected
6 from the reporting system to inform the public and healthcare stakeholders about
7 disease trends and vaccination efforts; and

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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
10 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Association of Counties shall
13 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
14 Legislature, NYSDOH Acting Commissioner James McDonald, and all others deemed
15 necessary and proper.
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