

## Aaron Siri

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**From:** doh.sm.DLAHouse <dlahouse@health.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Brehm; Aaron Siri  
**Subject:** Vaccinated vs. unvaccinated health outcomes in Ulster children

Dear Elizabeth Brehm and Aaron Siri,

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Commissioner Zucker requesting information about childhood vaccinations and school vaccination requirements.

Detailed information concerning the efficacy and safety of childhood vaccinations is widely available to the public, including on the websites of the Department of Health (<https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/>) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/index.html>), as well as in decades of scientific literature.

In addition, the State's authority to mandate vaccinations in schools and other settings, as an essential tool to protect the public health, has been clearly established by both federal and state courts dating back well over a century (See, e.g., *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905)).

Vaccinations are one of the most important methods available to protect children from serious and sometimes deadly diseases, and the Department of Health will continue to support childhood vaccinations and the enforcement of Public Health Law mandates for vaccinating school-age children.

Sincerely,

**Richard Thomas**

Deputy Director, Bureau of Program Counsel  
Division of Legal Affairs

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