

HB 131 -- Immunizations

Sponsor: Schaaf

Effective January 1, 2007, this bill prohibits immunizations administered to children less than eight years old from containing mercury preservatives, including thimerosal. The federal Food and Drug Administration's designation of an immunization as "thimerosal free" or "trace only" will comply with requirements of the bill. Other persons receiving immunizations that are not designated as "thimerosal free" or "trace only" are required to be informed that the immunization contains a mercury-based preservative.

Effective January 1, 2007, insurers licensed in Missouri that provide coverage for immunizations on a fee schedule or a percentage reimbursement basis are required to reimburse for immunizations not containing mercury. This reimbursement must be at the same percentage rate of the usual and customary charges provided for immunizations containing mercury or other preservatives prior to January 1, 2007.

The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services will be exempt from complying with the requirements of the bill by providing documentation of an outbreak requiring a public vaccination program when a sufficient supply of vaccine that is mercury free is not available. Persons receiving an exempted immunization are required to be informed that it contains a mercury-based preservative. The duration of the exemption will be determined by the director. The documentation provided by the department is required to be submitted to the chairs of the committees in the House of Representatives and Senate whose jurisdiction is public health policy.