

37 (c) Although children are often less affected than older adults, students with
38 certain medical conditions are at a much greater risk of contracting the virus and of being
39 more adversely affected. Additionally, COVID-19 cases continue to permeate in schools
40 with whole schools, such as Johnson Middle School and Whittier Education Campus,
41 having to be shut down due to the number of positive cases and hundreds of students
42 being considered close contacts.

43 (d) On August 23, 2021, the vaccine known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19
44 Vaccine was fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the prevention
45 of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

46 (e) As studies have shown, the COVID-19 vaccination reduces the risk of
47 COVID-19 and its potentially severe complications. In addition to providing protection
48 against COVID-19, there is increasing evidence that COVID-19 vaccines also provide
49 protection against COVID-19 infections without symptoms (asymptomatic infections)
50 and can reduce the spread of disease overall.

51 (f) The Council has received multiple requests from parents for a vaccine
52 requirement, not recommendation, for all eligible students for the 2021-22 school year.
53 The current policy disallows enrollment in school without proper vaccination.

54 (g) This bill requires that beginning March 1, 2022, all students must provide a
55 certification of COVID-19 immunization or documentation demonstrating that the
56 student is exempt from COVID-19 immunization. In order to provide necessary time and
57 sufficient notice, this requirement will not be enforced until the start of School Year
58 2022-2023.

59 (h) As follows, all children under the age of 5 in childcare facilities are currently
60 unvaccinated, as there exists no eligible vaccine for this age group. Unvaccinated adults
61 caring for young children present serious risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. This bill
62 would also require all staff employed at child development facilities licensed by the
63 Office of the State Superintendent receive a full COVID-19 vaccination and provide
64 related documentation annually.

65 (i) Multiple families and local education agencies (LEA) report a disconnect in
66 vaccine reporting. In order to clear communication channels, this bill will require student
67 certifications of all immunization data to be electronically transmitted by either a private
68 physician or the public health authorities directly to the student's local education agency.

69 (f) On October 4, 2021, the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and
70 Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021 was introduced as permanent
71 legislation. Upon a hearing, this bill received a first vote at the December 7, 2021
72 Legislative Meeting. The date for which eligible students are required to be fully
73 vaccinated in three months away. As follows, an emergency need exists to mandate
74 student vaccination to allow for timely notice.

75 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the
76 circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it
77 necessary that the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood
78 Workers Regulation Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single
79 reading.

80 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.