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August 27, 2020

Natalie Pafitis, MSc

Editor-in-Chief

BioMed Central

RE: HPV Vaccine School-Entry Requirement in Puerto Rico: Historical Context, Challenges, And Opportunities

Dear Mrs. Natalie Pafitis,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript for publication consideration in the BioMed Central Public Health entitled: Content Analysis of Digital Media Coverage of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine School- Entry Requirement in Puerto Rico. This original article aims to analyze the content of digital news coverage related to the implementation of the policy in PR. As you might be aware, up to date, only 5 states and jurisdictions in the United States of America have current HPV policies enacted (recently Hawaii which will start implementation in Fall 2020). Although there are studies that have documented the impact of the school requirement on HPV vaccination, few documented or examined the process of implementation of the HPV vaccine school-entry policies and how the content of media coverage may impact people's perception of HPV vaccine and their willingness to vaccinate. We understand that this publication can help inform other states/territories considering adopting HPV vaccination policies and future implementation of these policies. Moreover, we understand that (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), online discussions and media content might have implications for vaccine hesitancy. Moreover, since potential immunization mandates might emerge, we hope our recent experiences studying the implementation of the HPV school entry policy and the role of digital online media will aid in the development of future public health strategies nationwide.

We look forward to your evaluation. I can be reached at [vivian.colon@upr.edu](mailto:vivian.colon@upr.edu).

Thank you in advance for the consideration of our brief report in this prestigious journal.

Sincerely,

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

Vivian Colon-Lopez, PhD, MPH

Professor

Graduate School of Public Health

&

Investigator

University of Puerto Rico Cancer Center

Literature cited:

1. Thompson EL, Livingston MD, Daley EM, Zimet GD. Human papillomavirus vaccine initiation for adolescents following Rhode Island’s school-entry requirement, 2010-2016. Am J Public Health 2018;108:1421–3. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304552>.
2. Perkins RB, Lin M, Wallington SF, Hanchate AD. Impact of school-entry and education mandates by states on HPV vaccination coverage: Analysis of the 2009–2013 National Immunization Survey-Teen. Hum Vaccines Immunother 2016;12:1615–22.

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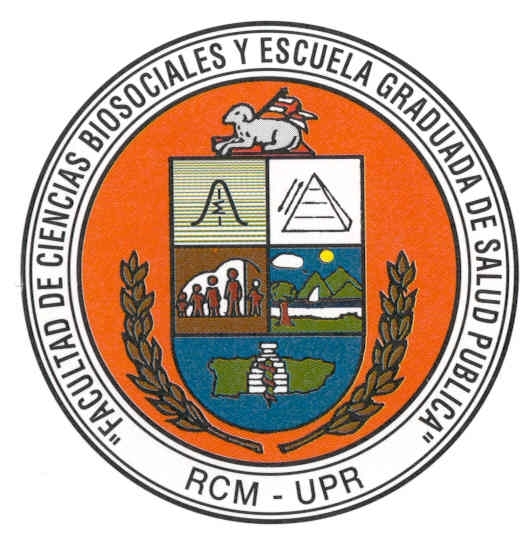
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