

יום א' לסדר ושמרת לעשות ככל אשר יורוך, ר"ח אלול תשע"ה.

לכבוד המנהלים החשובים  
של החדרים ובתי יעקב שבעיר התורה דליקוואוד יצ"ו.

In light of the recent attempt by some individuals that children who have not received the standard vaccines should not be accepted into school, we would like to state the following:

- As שומרי תורה ומצוות, *Menahalim* must keep in mind that denying a child acceptance to school and forcing parents to vaccinate their children against their will are decisions involving serious Halachic שאלות.
- Vaccination practices involve risks recognized by the medical establishment. In fact, in February 2011 the Supreme Court stated that vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe". Consequently, halachically no one has the right to force someone to vaccinate his children against his will.
- Setting school policy on this matter understandably necessitates medical knowledge of the מציאות and the risks involved. However it also requires much וכו', חיוב בטחון והשתדלות, חיוב מצות ושמרתם מאד לנפשותיכם regarding דעת תורה all topics for which doctors are not qualified to rule upon.

Recently, in a letter addressed to Hagoan Rav Chaim Kanievsky, Dr Shanik explained the reasons a school should not accept non-vaccinated children. Yet, after weighing all considerations, Rav Chaim Shlita paskened explicitly that **schools cannot refuse such children**. This psak has been endorsed by many Gedolim and Poskim (see included letters). As שומרי תורה ומצוות who rule our lives according to דעת תורה it would be nothing short of בזיון התורה and חילול ה' if the frum schools of Lakewood would disregard this psak.

May the זכות of conducting ourselves according to דעת תורה be a true protection for our children and bring lasting health to all the members of our community.

מתערי חיים סלומון

אריה מלכה קובל  
באמנתו רש"ט

אוריאל קובל