



State Regulations on Thimerosal-Containing Vaccines

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been actively addressing the issue of thimerosal in vaccines by performing a comprehensive review of the use of this preservative in childhood vaccines. The FDA concluded that there was no evidence of harm from the use of thimerosal in vaccines other than hypersensitivity reactions.¹ As a precautionary measure, however, the Public Health Service urged vaccine manufacturers to reduce or eliminate thimerosal from vaccines as soon as possible.¹ Several states also took precautions by enacting legislation that requires administration of vaccines containing no, or trace amounts of, thimerosal to infants, children, and pregnant women. These states include²

- California
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Missouri
- New York
- Washington

Despite this legislation, all of these states allow its health department to temporarily use thimerosal-containing vaccines in the event of a public health emergency or vaccine shortage.²