

**Connecticut PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council**  
2013 Recommendations to the Public Health Committee

Connecticut Public Act 13-187, An Act Concerning A School Nurse Advisory Council and An Advisory Council on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS), established the Connecticut PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council. The Act charges the Advisory Council to report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health (Public Health Committee). The report shall include recommendations including, but not limited to: (1) Practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS/PANS; (2) mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and education regarding PANDAS/PANS among physicians, including pediatricians, school based health centers and providers of mental health services; (3) outreach to educators and parents to increase awareness of PANDAS/PANS; and (4) development of a network of volunteer experts on the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS/PANS to assist in education and outreach.

The PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council has determined that it is not the appropriate venue to develop practice guidelines for the treatment and diagnosis of PANDAS/PANS. Such recommendations should be developed by a professional medical association or come from a federal agency. The Council identified the following recommendations to submit to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2014:

1. The Public Health Committee, in relationship with the Education and Children Committees, along with other relevant legislative committees, hosts an annual day to educate the community on PANDAS/PANS which involves all stakeholders from education, medical communities and parents.
2. Develop an outreach program specific to school nurses to increase PANDAS/PANS awareness, and present this product to the Connecticut Association of School Nurses and the State Department of Education.
3. Develop programs for school mental health professionals and educators to increase PANDAS/PANS awareness.
4. Conduct an assessment that includes an educational component which will include practitioners that interact with children (i.e. pediatricians, family practitioners, mental health professionals, neurologists, school nurses, immunologists, allergists, infectious disease doctors, naturopaths, and emergency room physicians).
5. Raise awareness about and promote the use of established PANDAS Registries. (*Registries will be a key instrument for increasing knowledge concerning PANDAS/PANS by pooling data that will ultimately inform clinical practice and encourage future research to address unanswered questions*)
6. DPH will review and approve all content of educational materials and programs.
7. Create a full-time position at DPH to implement the recommendations of the CT PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council.