**Saint Leo University Health and Wellness Center Supports and advocates the following statement by the American Health and College Association…**

**“ACHA Statement in Support of Vaccine Use to Promote Health and Prevent Disease**
Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. The United States is experiencing re-emergence of these diseases, in part due to factors such as un-immunized and under-immunized persons and global travel. The American College Health Association (ACHA) strongly supports the use of vaccines to protect the health of our individual students and our campus communities. In recognition of the vital role that vaccine coverage plays in community immunity (herd immunity), the ACHA discourages nonmedical exemptions to required vaccines. Best practices for institutions of higher education include following Recommendations for Institutional Prematriculation Immunizations (RIPI) guidelines, encouraging students who request nonmedical waivers to be counseled by a health service clinician, and considering exclusion of unimmunized students from school during outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.”

Adopted by the ACHA Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors on April 15, 2014.