

The logo of the Arizona Department of Health Services is a circular emblem on the left side of the slide. It features a central sun with rays, surrounded by various symbols including a mountain, a river, a tree, a flower, and a hand. The emblem is rendered in a light teal color against the darker teal background.

# School and Child Care Immunization Coverage, Arizona Requirements, and Strategies for Increasing Immunization Uptake

Arizona Immunization Conference  
April 15 & 16, 2025

Lauren Krebs, MPH | School Health Epidemiologist

# Speaker

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**Lauren Krebs, MPH**

Epidemiologist/School Assessment Coordinator


# Financial Disclosures

- Lauren Krebs, faculty for this CE activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.
- None of the planners for this activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.
- The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers is accredited by the Arizona Medical Association to provide medical education for physicians.
- The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers designated the 2025 Arizona Immunization Conference educational activity for a maximum of 11 hours AMA PRA Category 1 Credits Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
- The Arizona Pharmacy Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.

# Learning Objectives:

This presentation will address School and Child Care Immunization Coverage and Arizona immunization requirements. Attendees will also learn strategies for increasing immunization uptake.

1. Review the Arizona Statutes, Administrative Code, and how they apply to the Arizona school immunization requirements.
2. Review why vaccines are important and look at the current trends in immunizations including coverage rates in Arizona and the United States.
3. Discuss strategies to help boost immunization uptake and how the immunization education course (IEC) may provide support for educators and parents.

The Arizona State Seal is a circular emblem on the left side of the slide. It features a central shield with a cactus, a sun, and a mountain. The shield is surrounded by a wreath of olive and oak branches. The outer ring of the seal contains the text 'THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA' and '1909'.

# Arizona School Immunization Requirements & History of Vaccines

# Background on Immunization Requirements

- Arizona has two sets of required immunizations - one for [Child Care](#) and one for [Grade School](#) (K-12).
- These requirements are detailed in Statute 15-871 to 15-874 and A.A.C. R9-6-7
- Child Care requirements start at 2 months of age through 59 months.
- Grade School requirements start upon enrollment in Kindergarten through 12th grade.



# Legal Mandates Requiring Vaccination to Attend School

- Legal mandates are one of the best ways to maintain vaccine uptake.
- Increase the likelihood that parents with concerns will consult legitimate medical professionals to discuss their questions or fears.
- States that have eliminated religious and personal beliefs exemptions have higher immunization rates. When legislators in California, Michigan, and New York strengthened their mandates, vaccination rates in those states went up.



[How to Inoculate Against Anti-Vaxxers - The New York Times](#)

# What Does Arizona Law Say?

A.R.S. 15-872 delegates responsibility:

- A. **The director of the department ... with the superintendent ... shall develop ... standards for documentary proof.**
- B. **A pupil shall not be allowed to attend school without submitting documentary proof to the school administrator unless the pupil is exempted from immunization pursuant to section 15-873 (*D similar, upon enrollment*).**
- E. Notwithstanding ... B and D ... a pupil may be ... allowed to attend a school if the pupil has received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations prescribed ... and has established a schedule for completion ... **The parent ... of a pupil shall present to the school administrator documentary proof of the immunizations received and a schedule prepared by the pupil's physician or registered nurse practitioner or a health agency for completion of additional required immunizations.**
- F. The school administrator shall review the school immunization record for each pupil ... at least twice each school year until the pupil receives all of the required immunizations and shall suspend a pupil ... who fails to comply ... Immunizations received ... shall be entered in the pupil's school immunization record.
- G. Unless proof of an exemption from immunization pursuant to section 15-873 is provided, a pupil who is admitted or allowed to continue to attend and who fails to comply with the immunization schedule within the time intervals specified by the schedule shall be suspended from school attendance until documentary proof of the administration of another dose of each appropriate immunizing agent is provided to the school administrator.



# Arizona Administrative Code

- The Arizona Administrative code outlines the statute (authorized in 15-872 A).
- These are informally called “rules” and the code outlines responsibilities for ADHS, counties, and school administrators and staff.
- Most rules, including the immunizations are in Title 9, Chapter 6, Article 7 (R9-6-70x) [Child Care in ch. 3 and 5].
- Notable sections are R9-6-702 through R9-6-707

# Arizona Administrative Code

**Arizona Revised Statutes 15-872(B):** A pupil shall not be allowed to attend school without submitting documentary proof to the school administrator unless the pupil is exempted from immunization.

**Arizona Revised Statutes 15-872(G):** Unless proof of an exemption from immunization pursuant to section 15-873 is provided, a pupil who is admitted or allowed to continue to attend and who fails to comply with the immunization schedule within the time intervals specified by the schedule shall be suspended from school attendance until documentary proof of the administration of another dose of each appropriate immunizing agent is provided to the school administrator.

# Section Summary

- R9-6-702: The immunizations, doses, and ages required.
- R9-6-703: Requirements for administering vaccines.
- R9-6-704: Documenting Immunizations on the student record (for school and child care)
- **R9-6-705: Admission and removal of students. Outbreak and vaccine shortage procedures.**
- R9-6-706: Exemptions of all types and processes surrounding them.
- R9-6-707: Immunization Data Report methodology.

# Section Highlights

- 702: Shows each vaccine and the required age. Of note is that the requirements start at 2 months for Child Care and upon entry into Kindergarten.
- 703: Upon request of a parent, a local health agency shall provide for the immunization of a child against any disease listed in R9-6-702.
- 704: Authorizes ASIIS printouts, SIS printouts, and other records similar to the ASIR.
- 705: **Establishes the 15-day grace period for Child Care (applied to all schools in practice).**
- 708: Authorizes counties, ADHS, administration to review records.
- 15-872 (I): A school and its employees are immune from civil liability for decisions concerning the admission ... based on a good faith implementation of the requirements of this article.

# Pop Quiz!

**How many days is the grace period** from parental notification to comply with vaccine requirements (either provide documentation of vaccine or an exemption)?

15 Days

# Acceptable ADHS Exemption Forms

- A current ADHS form must be used for all exemptions
- Schools/Child Care Centers cannot accept any other forms even from doctor offices
- Religious Exemption Form
  - Valid only for child care, preschool and Head Start
- Personal Belief Exemption Form
  - Valid only for K-12th grade students
- Medical Exemption Form
  - Valid for all ages

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Medical Exemption Form

Arizona law requires that schools, preschools and child care facilities retain this form in order for a child to be exempted from immunization requirements for medical reasons.

This is the official ADHS-provided format used by licensed physicians and registered nurse practitioners to document that at least one of the two exemption requirements are met:

1. Due to the child's health or medical condition, the child may be adversely affected on a temporary or permanent basis by one or more of the required vaccine doses.
2. The child has laboratory evidence of immunity to one or more specific vaccine-preventable diseases and lab results are attached (required for measles, rubella, and varicella). OR the child has a documented medical history of disease OR laboratory evidence of immunity for diseases other than measles, rubella, and varicella.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner to exempt a child from school or child care immunization requirements.

Printed Name of Physician or Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Physician or Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Personal Belief Exemption Form  
*Kindergarten - 12th Grade Only*

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools to preventing diseases that can cause serious illness and even death. ADHS also respects the rights of parents to decide whether or not to vaccinate their child.

By state law, (A.R.S. § 13-2821) a child will not be allowed to attend school until either proof of immunization or a completed exemption form is submitted to the school. The information below is provided to ensure that parents are informed about the risks of not vaccinating.

Place an "X" in the box to the left of the disease(s) listed to exempt your child from the vaccine. Initial and date the box on the right.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Diphtheria (DTaP, Tdap, Td)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing diphtheria. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: heart failure, nerve damage, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tetanus (DTaP, Tdap, Td)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing tetanus. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: "locking" of the jaw, weakness and breathing, seizures (jerking and staring), painful rigidity of muscles in the head and neck, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (DTaP, Tdap)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing pertussis. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: severe coughing fits that can cause vomiting and exhaustion, pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polio (IPV)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing polio. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: paralysis (can't move parts of the body), infection of the brain and spinal cord (causing permanent disability), and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing measles, mumps, and rubella. Serious symptoms and effects of these diseases include: pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of mumps include: meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord covering), permanent disability, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of rubella include: rash, joint pain, and death. If a woman gets rubella while she is pregnant, she could harm the baby. Children born with serious birth defects such as deafness, brain damage, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hepatitis B</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing hepatitis B. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: liver problems, such as scarring and liver cancer, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) 9/04-2010

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Religious Beliefs Exemption Form  
*For Child Care, Preschool and Head Start Programs*

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools to preventing diseases that can cause serious illness and even death. ADHS also respects the rights of parents who are raising their child in a religion whose teachings are in opposition to immunization to make the decision not to vaccinate their child.

Place an "X" in the box to the left of the disease(s) listed to exempt your child from the vaccine. Initial and date the box on the right.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Diphtheria (DTaP, Tdap, Td)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing diphtheria. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: heart failure, paralysis (can't move parts of the body), breathing problems, coma, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tetanus (DTaP, Tdap, Td)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing tetanus. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: "locking" of the jaw, difficulty swallowing and breathing, seizures (jerking and staring), painful rigidity of muscles in the head and neck, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (DTaP, Tdap)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing pertussis (whooping cough) if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: severe coughing fits that can cause vomiting and exhaustion, pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polio</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing polio if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: paralysis (can't move parts of the body), meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord covering), permanent disability, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at an increased risk of developing measles, mumps, and/or rubella if exposed to these diseases. Serious symptoms and effects of measles include: pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of mumps include: meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord covering), permanent disability, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of rubella include: rash, joint pain, and death. If a woman gets rubella while she is pregnant, she could harm the baby. Children born with serious birth defects such as deafness, brain damage, and death.	Initials: _____ Date: _____

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partments of Health  
scribe the  
Revised: July 2013



# Pop Quiz!

Which **non-medical** exemption can parents use for Head Start?

Religious  
Beliefs  
Exemption

# Why are vaccines important?





# Why are vaccines important?

It is estimated that, each year worldwide, vaccines prevent up to **3 million** deaths.

[Vaccination: the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system - PMC](#)



# Vaccines Are Not Just One of the Most Significant Public Health Interventions in History - They are Also Cost-effective

**Childhood vaccinations will save the U.S. nearly \$2.2 trillion in total societal costs.\***

That's more than 2 years of groceries for every American.

\*Updated 2021 analysis using methods from "Benefits from Immunization during the Vaccines for Children Program Era—United States, 1994–2013."

Get the facts, not the fiction.

[LetsGetReal.hhs.gov](https://www.letsgetreal.hhs.gov)

Source: [cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html)  
[ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-prices-and-spending](https://ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-prices-and-spending)



Vaccines continue to be regarded as one of the most cost-effective healthcare interventions.

[Vaccination: the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system - PMC](#)

# A HISTORY OF VACCINES



200BC

Chinese doctors use **dried cowpox scabs** to provide immunity to smallpox but, 1-3% died during the process

1796

Over 1000 years later, the **smallpox vaccine** was developed by Edward Jenner, using **horses, mules, goats, and rabbits**

1884

Louis Pasteur created the first **rabies vaccine** and proved that it worked in **dogs**

1914

**Diphtheria antitoxin** first tested on **guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs** and **cats**

1921

First human tests of the **BCG vaccine** for tuberculosis, previously tested on **guinea pigs**

1981

A human-blood-derived **hepatitis B vaccine** is developed using **chimpanzees**

1971

The combined **measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine** is created using **monkeys, pigs, sheep, and horses**

1952

Salk begins testing a **polio vaccine** on children following tests in **monkeys**

1936

Max Theiler tests his **Yellow fever vaccine** using tissue cultures prepared from **chicken eggs**

1924

The **tetanus toxoid vaccine** was developed using **horses** and **guinea pigs**

2006

**HPV vaccine** for cervical cancer licensed for use in the USA, developed using **rabbits, mice, and monkeys**

2015

**Malaria vaccine** is approved for use after tests in **mice, rats, and humans**

2019

**Ebola vaccine** for humans and monkeys gains FDA approval following tests in **monkeys, guinea pigs, and baboons**

2020

**Covid-19 vaccines** produced rapidly in response to a global pandemic, using **mice, monkeys, pigs, and ferrets**

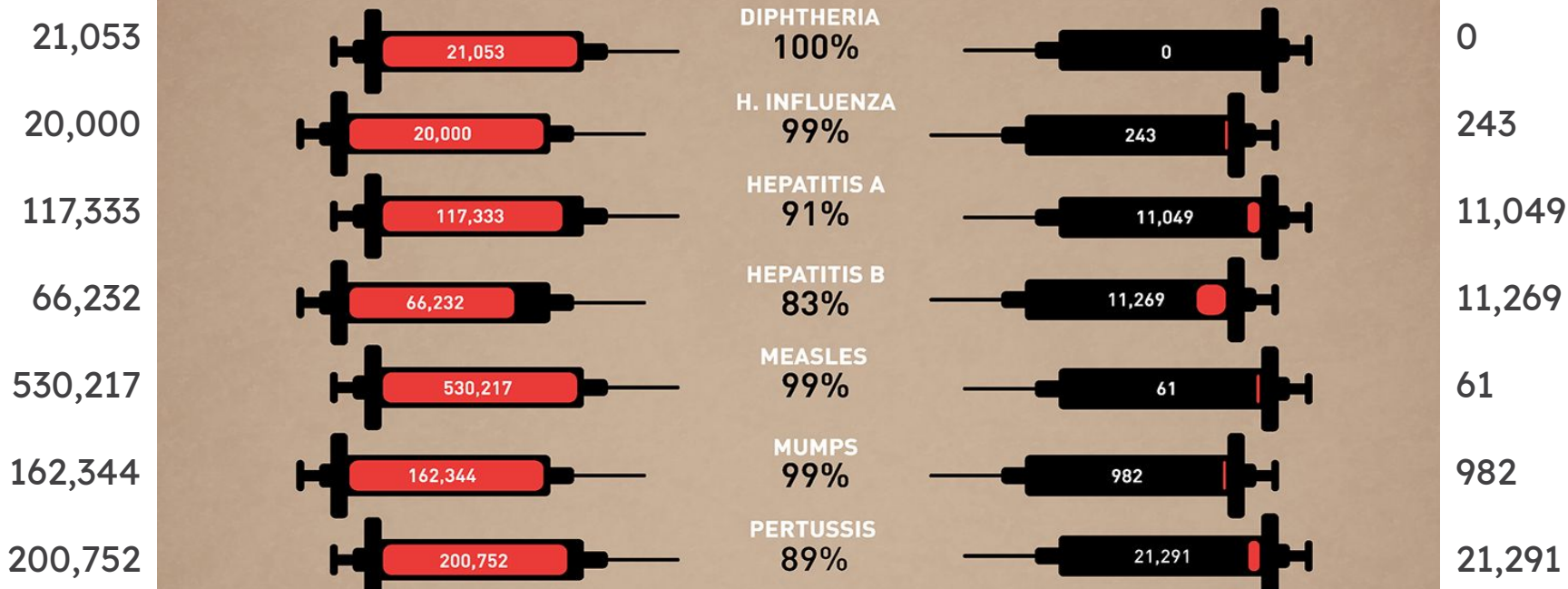


PRE-VACCINE ERA  
ESTIMATED ANNUAL  
MORBIDITY IN THE U.S.

%

MOST RECENT  
REPORTS OF  
CASES IN THE U.S.

DECREASE

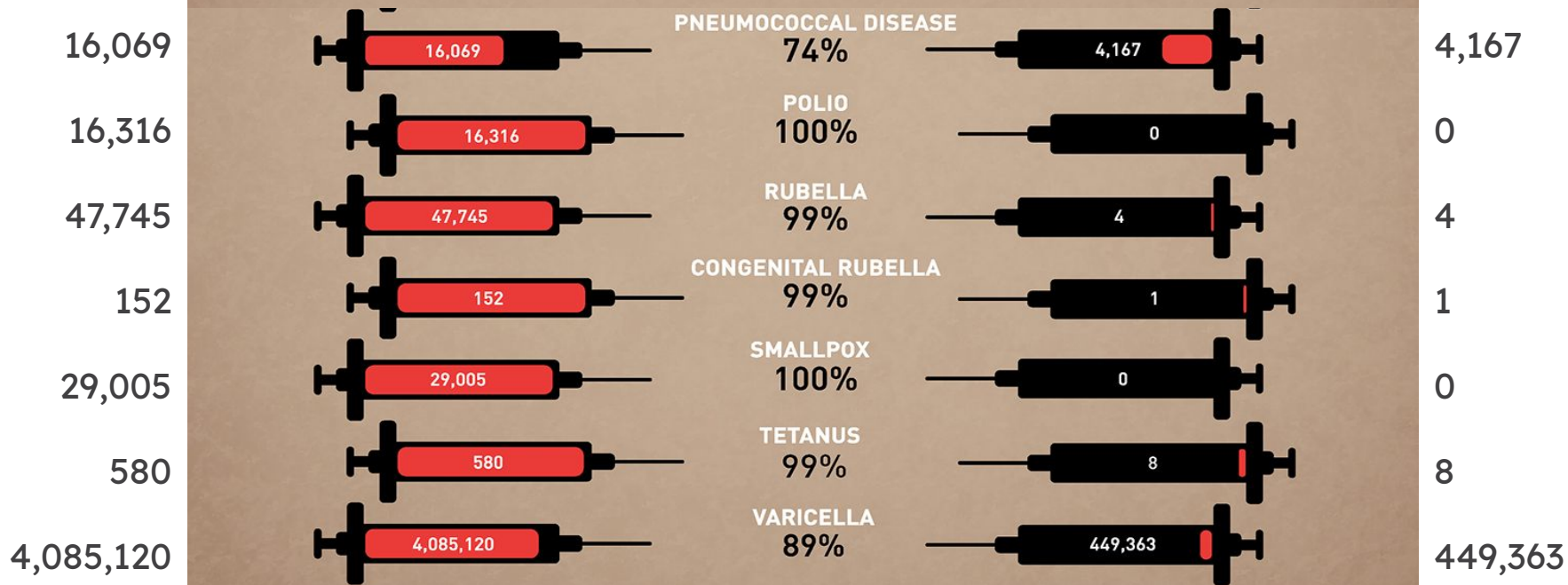


PRE-VACCINE ERA  
ESTIMATED ANNUAL  
MORBIDITY IN THE U.S.

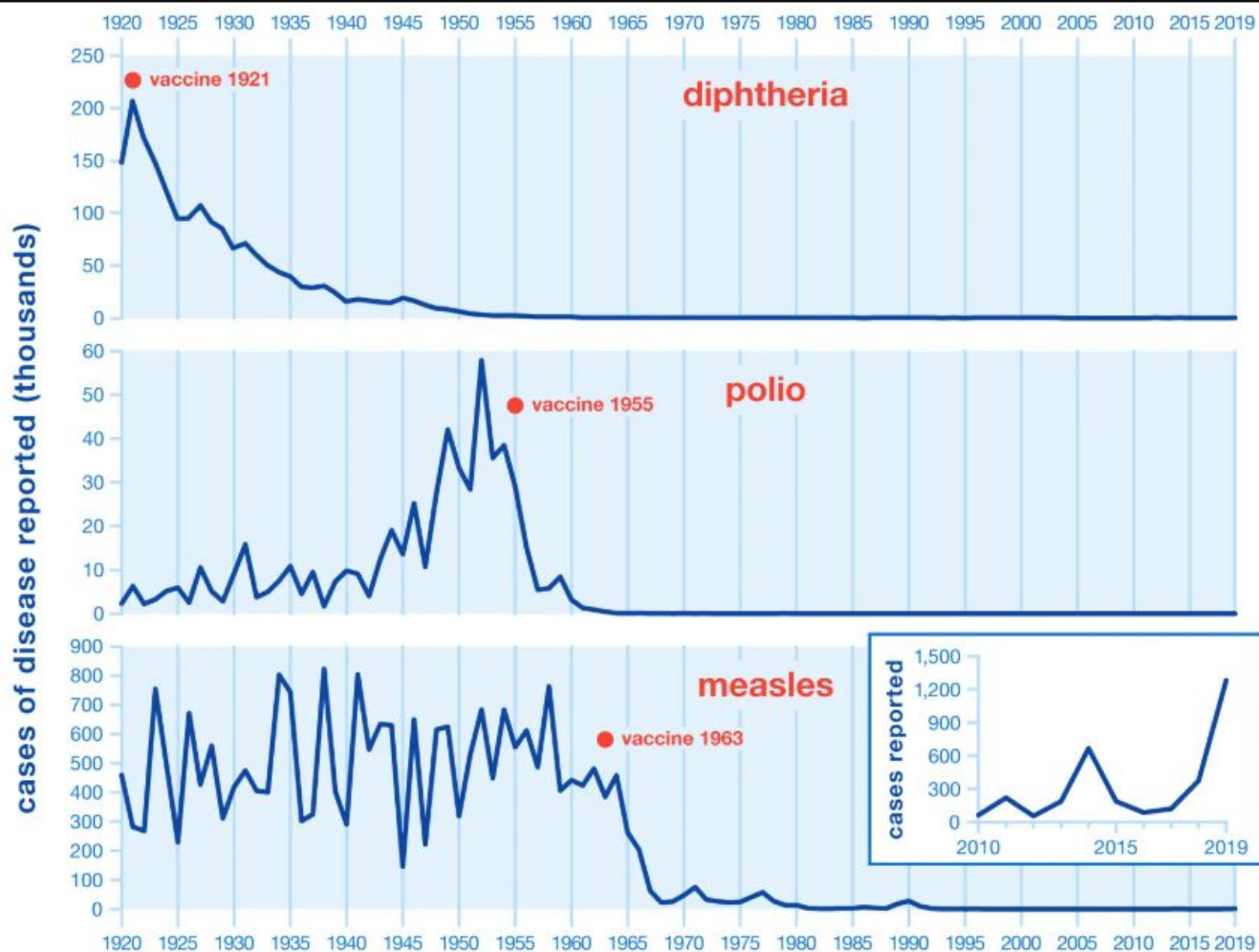
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MOST RECENT  
REPORTS OF  
CASES IN THE U.S.

DECREASE



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE CDC JANUARY 2011



# So, why doesn't everyone want these potentially life saving vaccines?

- Most people **do** choose to vaccinate
- Child Immunization **rates have dropped** since 2020.
- The effects of the pandemic, including **misinformation and disinformation** may contribute to decreases in coverage.
- Some people **cannot receive** vaccines.
  - To protect them, about **95%** of the rest of the population would need to be vaccinated.
- Because Arizona and other states have fallen **below 95%** in one or more immunizations, communities are **at risk of increased disease**.



# Pop Quiz!

What is the percentage level of those immunized needed to achieve **community or “herd” immunity** for a population?

95%



# Relative Risk of Vaccines and Effects of Disease

- The World Health Organization ranked **vaccine hesitancy** among the top 10 **health threats** worldwide.
- Being **unvaccinated** can result in **illness or death**.
- Side effects from vaccines are **extremely unlikely**, even minor ones.
- As vaccination **rates have fallen**, highly contagious illnesses like **measles** have made a **resurgence**.

[You Are Unvaccinated and Got Sick. These Are Your Odds. - The New York Times](#)



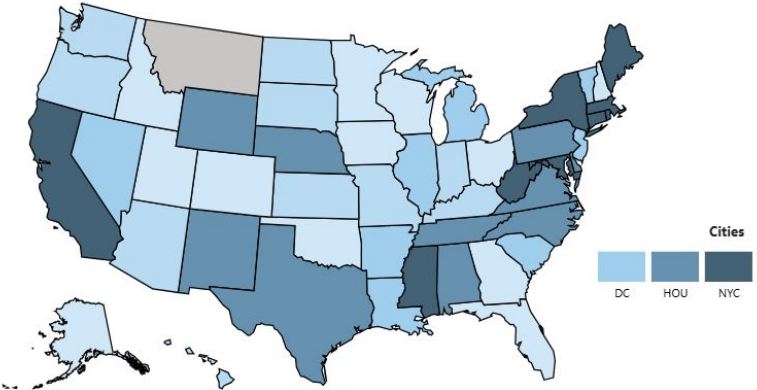


# Arizona School Immunization Data

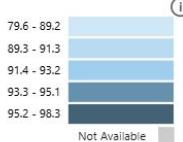
# What is the Current Status of Vaccine Uptake in the U.S?

## 2023-2024 Kinder MMR Coverage

MMR Vaccination Coverage among Kindergartners by School Year



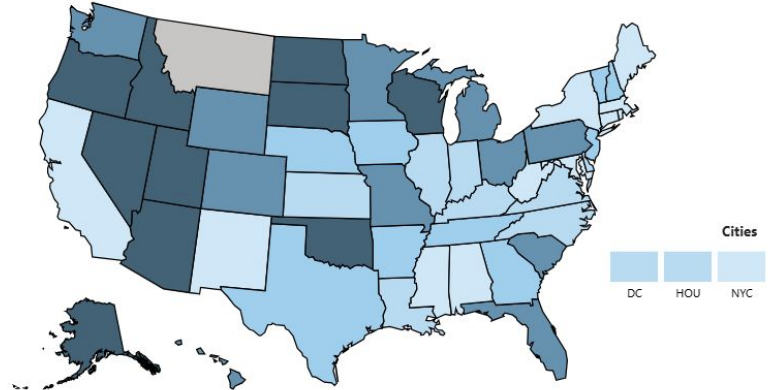
Legend - Coverage (%)



City & Territory Abbreviations

## 2023-2024 Kinder Exemptions

Percentage of Kindergartners with Any Exemption, by School Year



Legend - Coverage (%)



City & Territory Abbreviations



# Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption from School Vaccine Requirements Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2023–24 School Year | MMWR

## Summary

### What is already known about this topic?

From the 2019–20 to the 2022–23 school year, national kindergarten coverage with state-required vaccinations declined from 95% to approximately 93%.

### What is added by this report?

During the 2023–24 school year, coverage declined to <93% for all reported vaccines (range = 92.3% [diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine] to 92.7% [measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine]). The exemption rate increased to 3.3% from 3.0% the year before and increased in 41 jurisdictions, exceeding 5% in 14.

### What are the implications for public health practice?

Decreasing vaccination coverage and increasing exemptions increase the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Efforts by health departments, schools, and providers are needed to ensure that students begin school fully vaccinated.

# Implications for Public Health Practice

- **Vaccination coverage** in U.S. among kindergarten students remains **below pre-pandemic levels**
- Exemptions have **increased in 41 states** - 14 states have >5%.
- Clusters of **undervaccinated** children can lead to **outbreaks**
- It is important to make sure children are fully **vaccinated before school entry**, or before provisional enrollment periods end.
- **Exemptions in excess of 5%** limit the level of vaccination coverage that can be achieved, which **increases the risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.**



[Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption from School Vaccine Requirements Among Children in Kindergarten – United States, 2023–24 School Year | MMWR](#)

# Implications for Public Health Practice (con't)



- It is not clear whether this reflects a true increase in opposition to vaccination, or if parents are opting for nonmedical exemptions because of barriers to vaccination or out of convenience.
- The COVID-19 pandemic affected childhood routine vaccination
  - increase in hesitancy
  - barriers to vaccination
- Enforcement of school vaccination requirements, school-based vaccination clinics, reminder and recall systems, and follow-up with undervaccinated students have already been shown to be effective in increasing vaccination coverage.

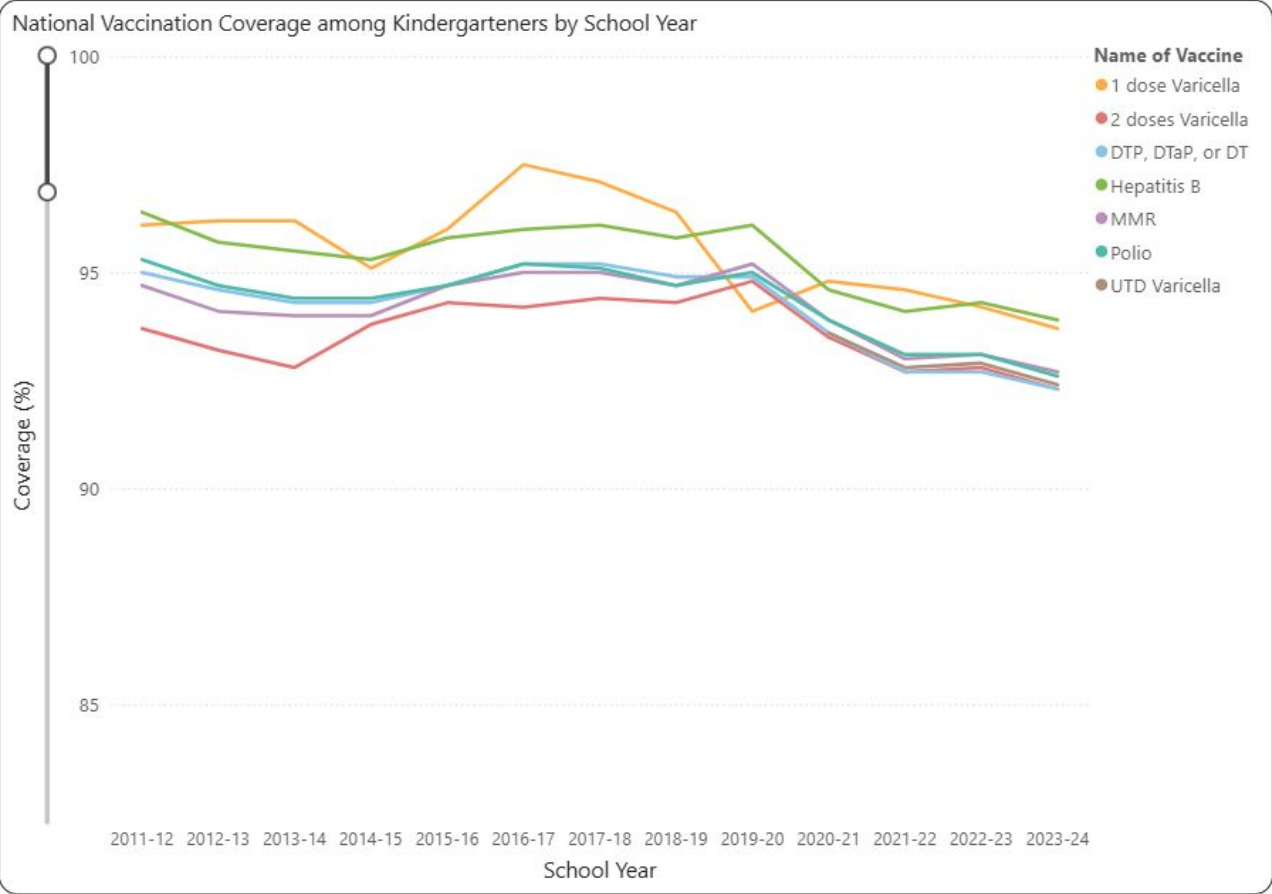
# What Authority Does ADHS Have to Collect and Evaluate Immunization Data?

- ADHS has a cooperative agreement with the CDC which requires states who receive funding to provide IDR data. We have a responsibility to collect IDR data from schools on a yearly basis.
- There are Arizona laws governing public health that guide us in these matters.

See the [Arizona Immunization Handbook](#), revised July 2024, for more information



# National Coverage Rates for Kindergarten, 2011-2024

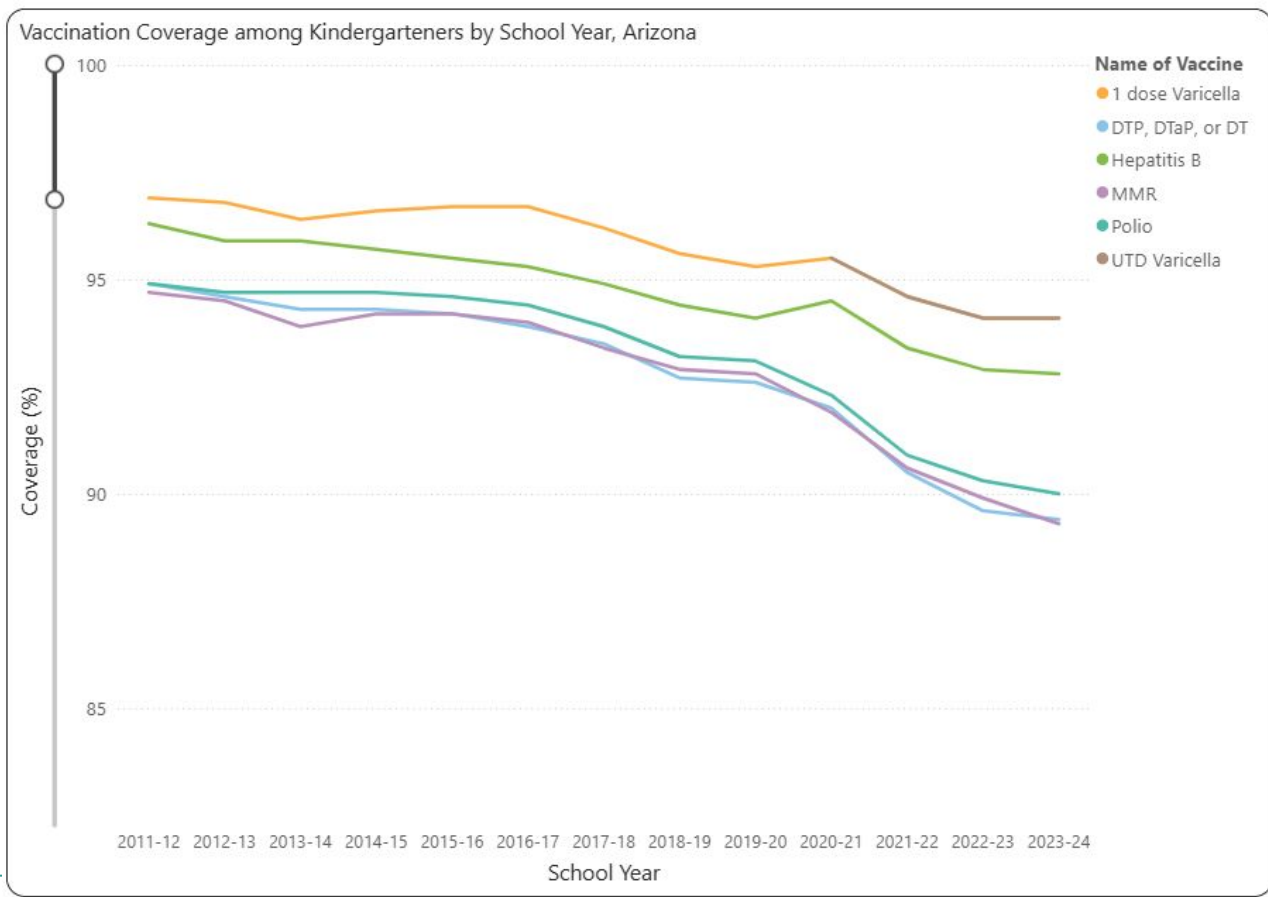


[SchoolVaxView](#)  
[Interactive School](#)  
[Vaccination Coverage |](#)  
[CDC](#)





# Arizona Coverage Rates for Kindergarten, 2011-2024



[SchoolVaxView](#)  
[Interactive School](#)  
[Vaccination Coverage |](#)  
[CDC](#)



**TABLE. Estimated\* coverage† with measles, mumps, and rubella; diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis; poliovirus; and varicella vaccines; grace period or provisional enrollment‡; and any exemption¶.\*\*\* among kindergartners, by jurisdiction — United States,†† 2023–24 school year**



Jurisdiction	Kindergarten population <sup>§§</sup>	Percentage							PP change in any exemption from last year to this year	Potentially achievable coverage <sup>*****</sup>
		Surveyed <sup>¶¶</sup>	2 MMR doses <sup>***</sup>	5 DTaP doses <sup>†††</sup>	4 Polio doses <sup>§§§</sup>	2 VAR doses <sup>¶¶¶</sup>	Grace period or provisional enrollment	Any exemption		
National estimate <sup>††††</sup>	3,823,472	93.1	92.7	92.3	92.6	92.4	2.6	3.3	0.3	96.9
Median <sup>††††</sup>	—	—	92.0	91.3	91.7	91.8	2.0	3.7	0.4	96.4

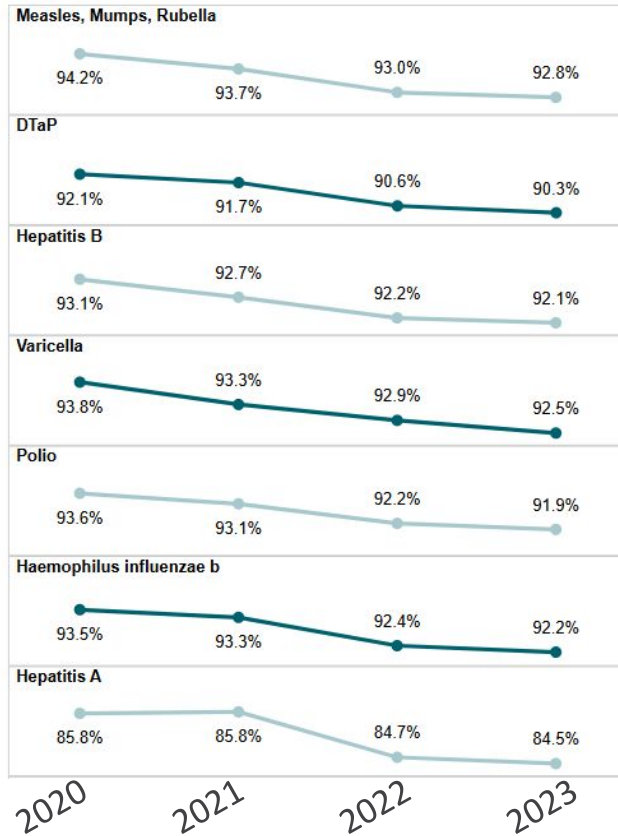
Arizona <sup>†††††</sup>	74,834	99.6	89.3	89.4	90.0	94.1	NR	8.5	1.1	92.8
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\*\*\*\*\* Religious exemptions were not allowed.

¶¶¶ Most states require 2 doses of VAR for school entry; Alabama, Arizona, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Oregon require 1 dose.

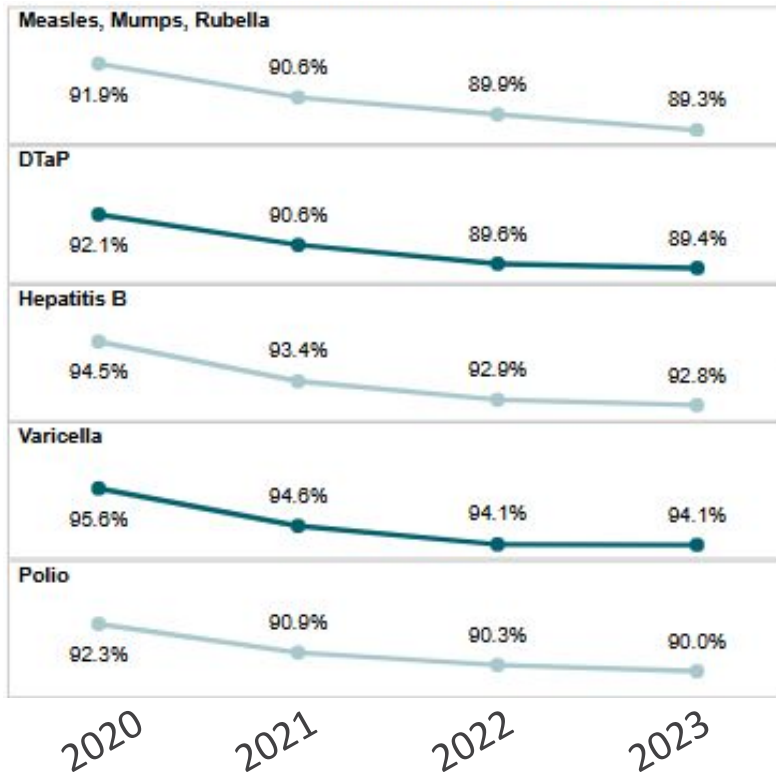


# Arizona Immunization Coverage Rates - Child Care, 2021-2024



Childcare			
	2023	2024	% Change 23-24
Students Enrolled	71,919	67,392	-6.29%
4+ DTaP	90.3%	89.9%	-0.36%
3+ Polio	91.9%	91.5%	-0.44%
1+ MMR	92.8%	92.4%	-0.40%
3+ HIB	92.2%	91.6%	-0.62%
2+ Hep A**	84.5%	83.7%	-0.80%
3+ Hep B	92.1%	91.4%	-0.71%
1+ Varicella	92.5%	92.0%	-0.50%

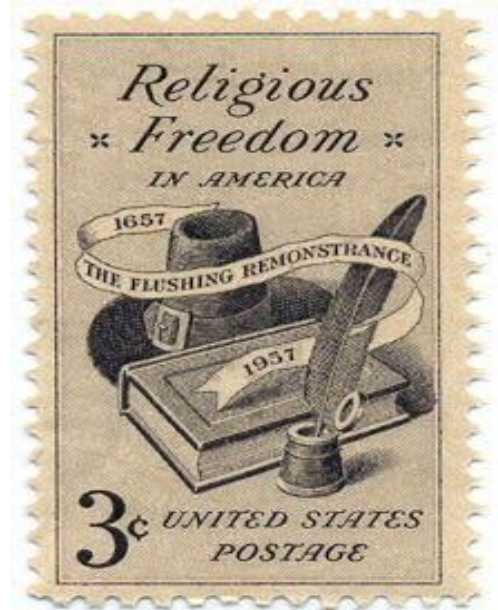
# Arizona Immunization Coverage Rates - Kindergarten, 2021-2024



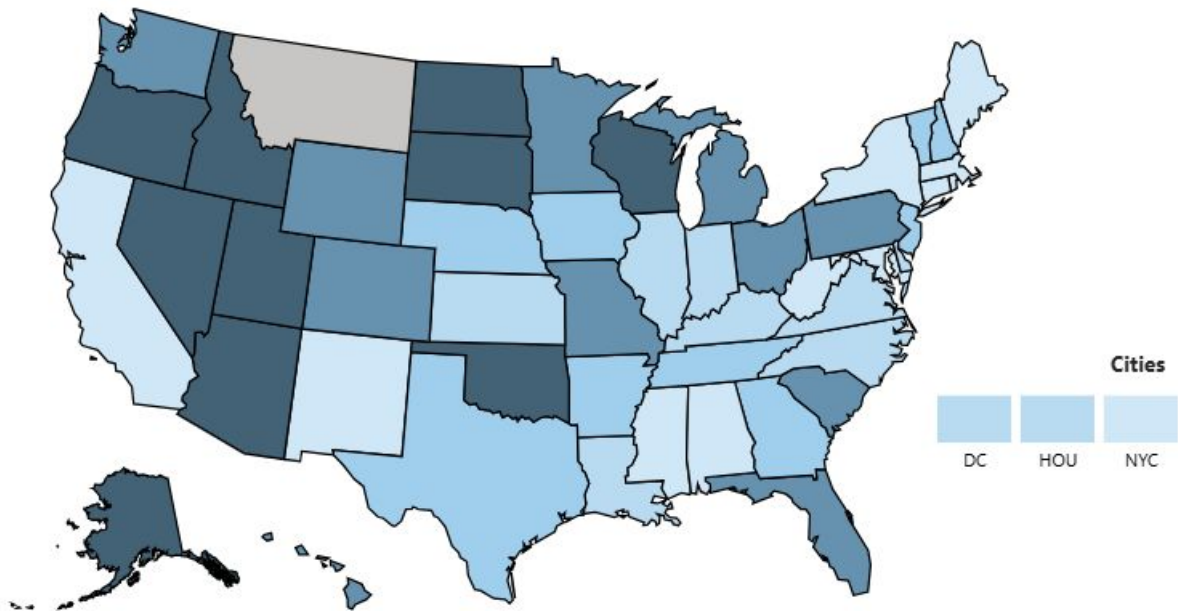
Kindergarten			
	2023	2024	% Change 23-24
Students Enrolled	74,535	73,056	-1.98%
4+ DTaP	89.4%	88.7%	-0.72%
3+ Polio	90.0%	89.1%	-0.87%
2+ MMR	89.3%	88.7%	-0.65%
3+ Hep B	92.8%	92.3%	-0.52%
1+ Varicella	94.1%	93.4%	-0.67%

# What Role do Exemptions Play in these Data?

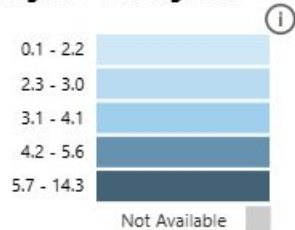
- **Most states allow** one or several options for exemptions: medical, personal beliefs, and/or religious.
- In 2024, **14 states have an exemption rate  $\geq 5\%$ .**
- **Religious freedom is important to protect**, but a California appeals court in upholding a **California law that removed religious exemptions.**
  - In 2018, a federal appeals court noted an earlier ruling that, “The right to practice religion freely does not include liberty to expose the community or the child to communicable disease or the latter to ill health or death.” *Brown v. Smith*, 235 Cal. Rptr. 3d 218, 24 Cal. App. 5th 1135 (2018)



# Percentage of Kindergartners with Any Exemption, by School Year

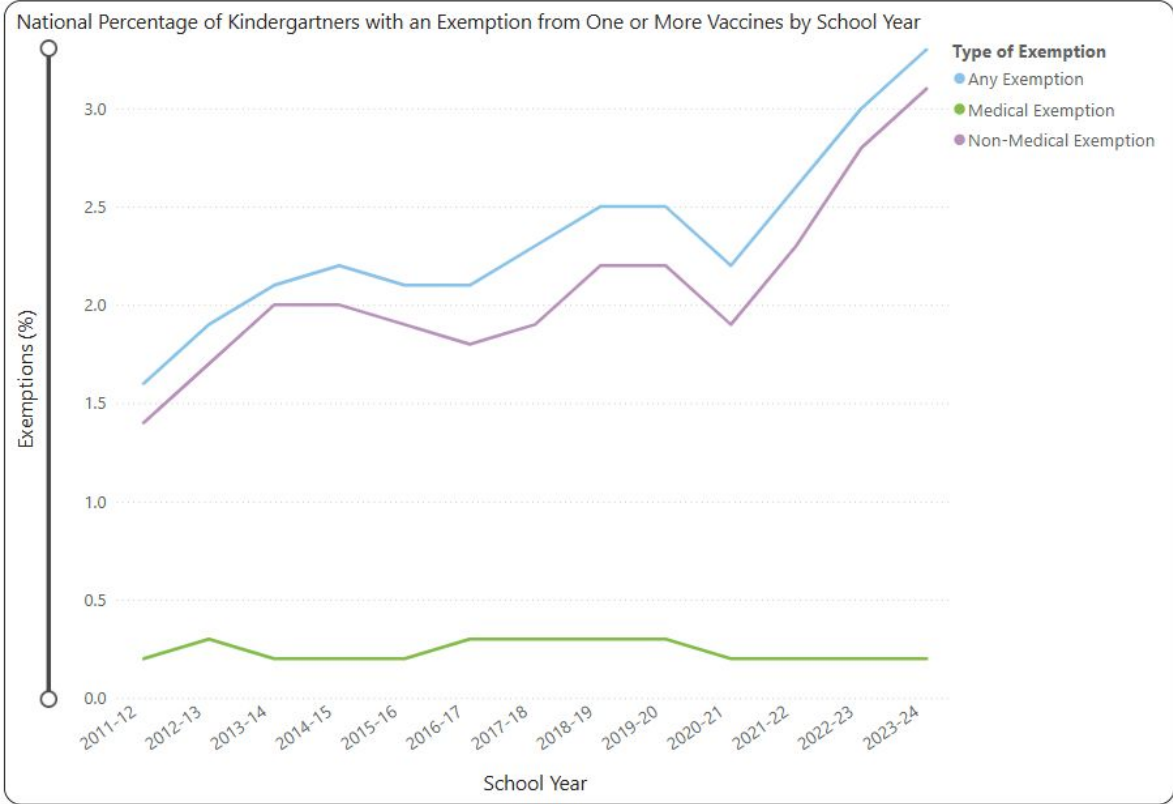


## Legend - Coverage (%)



City & Territory Abbreviations (?)

# National Exemption Rate for Kindergarteners for One or More Vaccines by School Year



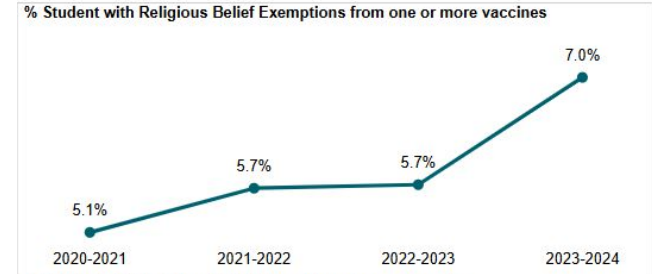
[SchoolVaxView](#)  
[Interactive School](#)  
[Vaccination Coverage |](#)  
[CDC](#)



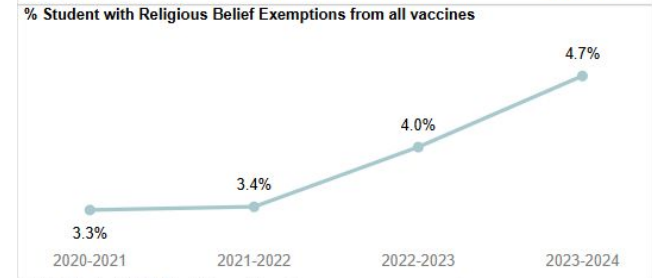
# Arizona Religious Belief Exemption Rates - Child Care, 2021-2024

Childcare			
	2023	2024	% Change 24-23
Religious Exempt One	7.0%	7.2%	0.2%
Religious Exempt All	4.7%	4.8%	0.1%
Medical Exempt	0.7%	0.2%	-0.5%

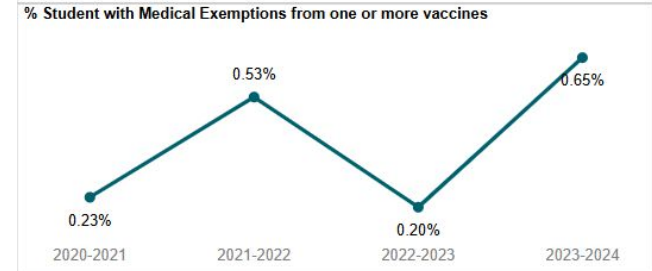
1 or more



All vaccines



Medical exemption, 1 or more vaccines



2020

2021

2022

2023

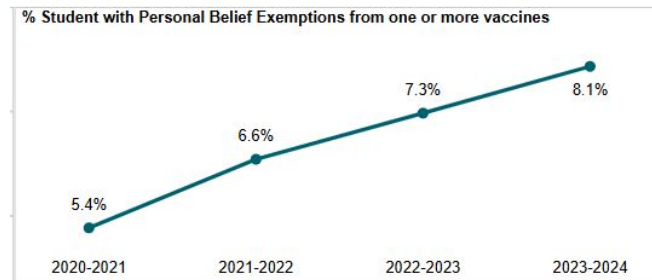




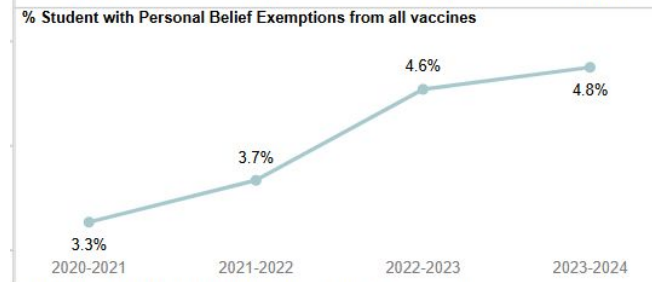
# Arizona Immunization Exemption Rates - Kindergarten, 2021-2024

Kindergarten			
	2023	2024	% Change 24-23
Personal Belief Exempt One	8.1%	9.0%	0.91%
Personal Belief Exempt All	4.8%	4.7%	-0.07%
Medical Exempt	0.5%	0.2%	-0.36%

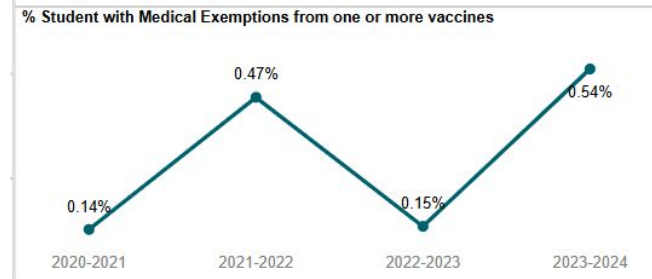
1 or more



All vaccines



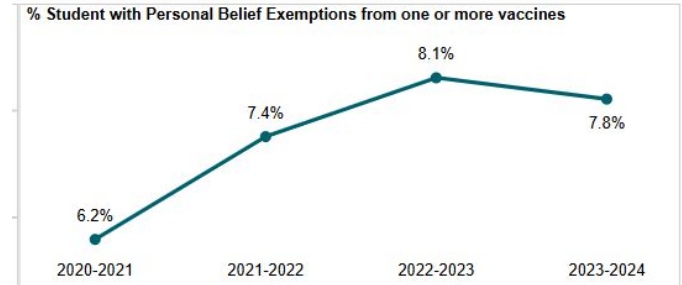
Medical exemption, 1 or more vaccines



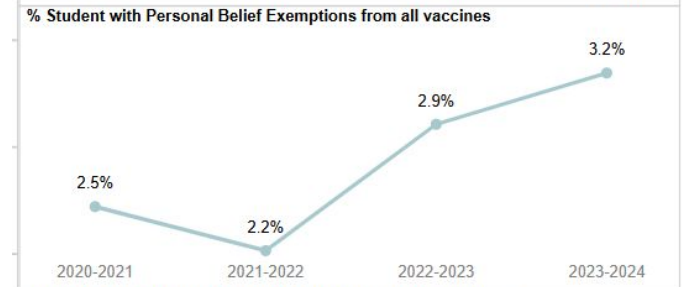
# Arizona Immunization Exemption Rates - 6th Grade, 2021-2024

Sixth			
	2023	2024	% Change 24-23
Personal Belief Exempt One	7.80%	7.6%	-0.2%
Personal Belief Exempt All	3.20%	2.9%	-0.3%
Medical Exempt	0.54%	0.2%	-0.4%

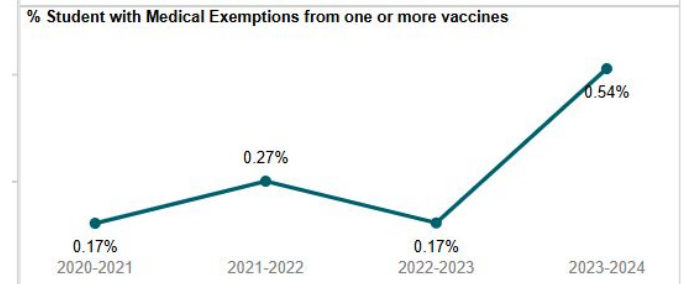
1 or more



All vaccines



Medical exemption, 1 or more vaccines

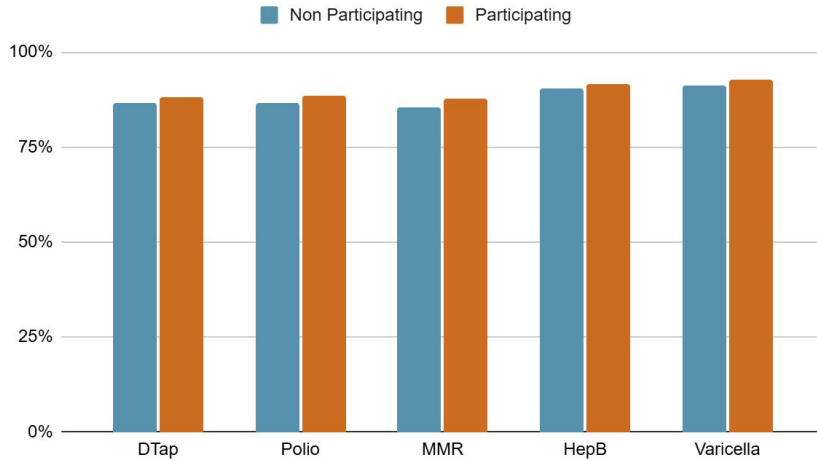


# Immunization Education Course

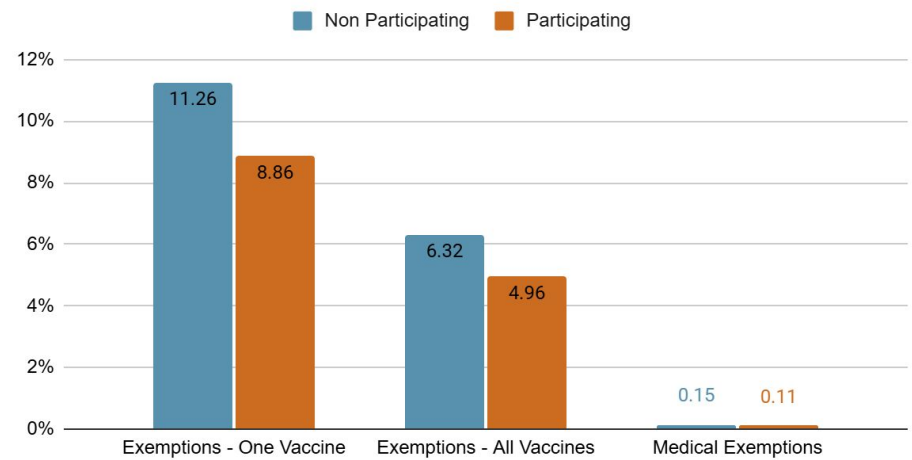


# Relationship of Participation in Immunization Education Course (IEC) with Exemption Rates: Kindergarten, 2023-2024

Average Coverage Rates of Schools Non-Participating vs. Participating in the IEC: Kindergarten 2024



Average Exemption Rates of Schools Non-Participating vs. Participating in the IEC: Kindergarten 2024

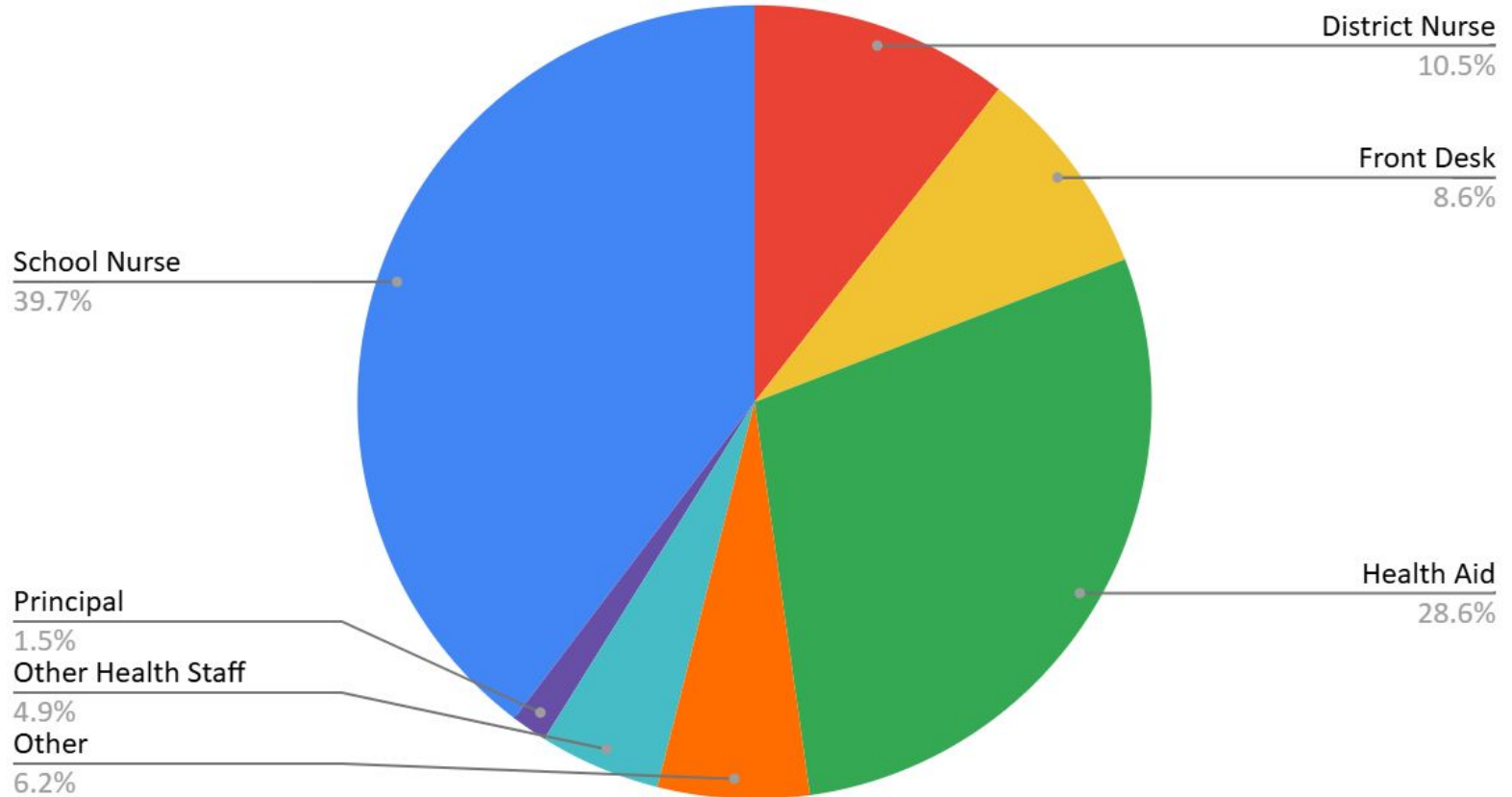


# Observations from the IEC Data

- **IEC Participation** is statistically significantly with **lower exemption rates** for participating schools/districts and has shown increased resilience year to year.
- There may be an opportunity for jurisdictions to include an IEC component in their mitigation strategy to **decrease exemptions**, either as a teaching tool or as a requirement to receive an exemption **by participating in the IEC** pilot program.



# Kindergarten 2024 IDR Reporters



# How Can School Staff Be Supported to Promote Immunization Uptake?

- **All staff** can help **increase rates**.
- **Most parents** still **vaccinate** their children.
- **Small increases** in uptake and **small decreases** in exemptions can make a **BIG difference!**
- It is **normal** to have questions and fears about **vaccine safety**.
  - **Staff may have questions**, as well.
- We need to **accept people where they are** - be aware of our own inherent biases, assumptions, and cultural differences.
- Although Arizona allows exemptions, many parents are **open to gathering more information** about vaccines.





# Vaccine Communication



# Common Questions About Vaccines

- Parents may **still have questions** about the vaccines recommended for their child.
- They only **want what is best** for their children and should be supported and encouraged to **ask questions**.
- Any **school staff can respond** to or refer to **another team member** for further information and guidance.



# How can school staff have compassionate conversations about vaccines with parents?



# What you might hear...

**Don't vaccines cause autism?**



**Response: Vaccines do not cause autism.**

Some people have had concerns that Autism Spectrum Disorder might be linked to the vaccines children receive, but studies have shown that **there is no link between receiving vaccines developing ASD.**

[Autism and Vaccines | Vaccine Safety | CDC](#)

# What you might hear...

## Are vaccines really safe?



**Response:** Millions of children and adults have been vaccinated safely. Although vaccines can have some common temporary side effects, including swelling, tenderness, and fever, **the risks of the potential diseases one might contract are much greater.**

[Vaccine Safety | CDC](#)

# What you might hear...

**Why are there so many vaccines given at one time?**



**Response:** The CDC reviews the childhood vaccine schedule regularly and it is designed to provide protection against serious diseases that may affect infants early in life. There is **no evidence** that a child's immune system will be damaged or overwhelmed by receiving several vaccines at one time. Any time vaccines are delayed, that child is vulnerable to disease.

[Vaccine Safety | CDC](#)



# Resources for School Staff

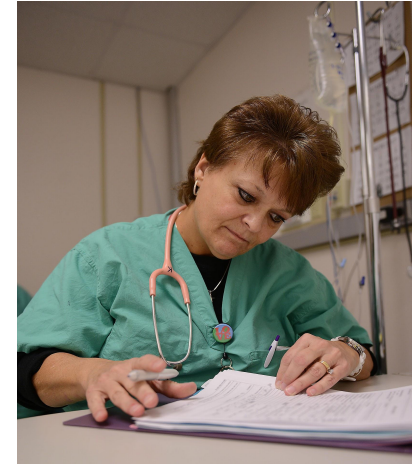
# Potential Actions to Increase Vaccine Uptake

- **Provide support** for all staff for education and assistance.
- Compile comprehensive **resources** for all staff.
- Provide **training** for rural and urban staff.
- Provide additional training modules for **records review**.
- Ensure that School Information Systems (SIS) provide **appropriate vaccine forecasting**.
- **Early records reviews** to give parents time to get appointments.
- Utilize the **Immunization Education Course**.



# Early Records Review

- Promoting vaccination records review early can help start dialogue and give parents more time to schedule vaccine appointments.
- There were significant appointment issues during COVID-19, and are challenges continue to be reported:
  - Back to school rush
  - Insurance and timing issues
  - Work schedule and conflicts
- **Starting records review during open enrollment and kindergarten round-up** is critical. Focusing efforts on schools and parents at this time can help offset many of the issues.





# Education and support for all school staff involved in Immunizations

- The IDR data identifies opportunities to increase uptake.
  - **Small changes can make a big difference**
  - **IEC as a resource**
- Increase **administrative help and support** to promote vaccine uptake.
- **Other resources** include: the Healthy Kids AZ app, referral forms, “How To” guides, CDC, TAPI, Immunize.org, and other organizational toolkits and training sessions.
- ADHS provides **each county with funding for IDR site visits** to provide support for schools.
  - Identify state, district, county, and community partner resources

# Resources for School Staff

- [SchoolVaxView Interactive School Vaccination Coverage | CDC](#)
- [Answers to Your Most Common Questions about Childhood Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [School Health Services | Healthy Schools | CDC](#)
- [AZ School Nurses & Health Office Staff Resources - Arizona Partnership for Immunization](#)
- [Back to School with Routine Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [School-located vaccination clinics: best practices for school districts : a guide for school district administrators](#)
- [Ways Schools Can Support Routine Vaccination Catch-Up Among School-Aged Children](#)

# Arizona School Immunization Coalition Strategies to Improve School Vaccination Rates & Decrease Use of Personal Exemption Forms



**RESOURCE HUB**

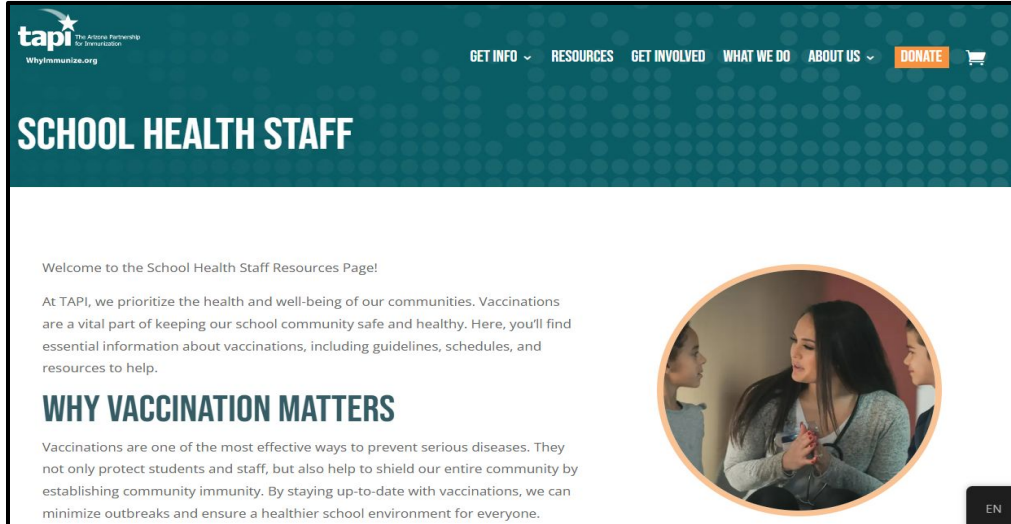


**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**



**IMMUNIZATION  
ADVOCATES/AMBASSADORS**

# Resource Hub



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the TAPI website with the logo and menu items: GET INFO, RESOURCES, GET INVOLVED, WHAT WE DO, ABOUT US, and DONATE. The main heading is "SCHOOL HEALTH STAFF". Below the heading, there is a welcome message and a paragraph about prioritizing health and well-being. A circular image shows two women talking. The text "WHY VACCINATION MATTERS" is followed by a paragraph explaining the importance of vaccinations. An "EN" button is visible in the bottom right corner.

**tapi** The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
WhyImmunize.org

GET INFO ▾ RESOURCES GET INVOLVED WHAT WE DO ABOUT US ▾ DONATE

## SCHOOL HEALTH STAFF

Welcome to the School Health Staff Resources Page!

At TAPI, we prioritize the health and well-being of our communities. Vaccinations are a vital part of keeping our school community safe and healthy. Here, you'll find essential information about vaccinations, including guidelines, schedules, and resources to help.

### WHY VACCINATION MATTERS

Vaccinations are one of the most effective ways to prevent serious diseases. They not only protect students and staff, but also help to shield our entire community by establishing community immunity. By staying up-to-date with vaccinations, we can minimize outbreaks and ensure a healthier school environment for everyone.

EN

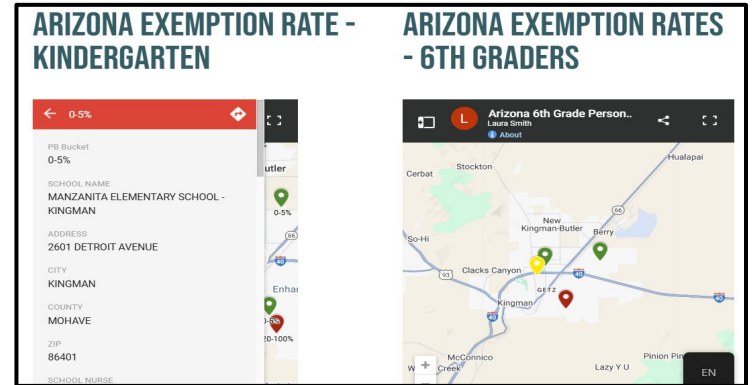


The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the TAPI website. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of a woman holding a baby, with another woman looking on. The text "T.I.P.S. TRAINING" is overlaid on the image in a white box.

**tapi** The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
WhyImmunize.org

GET INFO ▾ RESOURCES ▾ WHO WE ARE ▾ WHAT WE DO ▾ GET INVOLVED DONATE

## T.I.P.S. TRAINING



The screenshot shows two maps of Arizona. The left map is titled "ARIZONA EXEMPTION RATE - KINDERGARTEN" and shows a map with a red location pin and a sidebar with details for "MANZANITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - KINGMAN". The right map is titled "ARIZONA EXEMPTION RATES - 6TH GRADERS" and shows a map with a red location pin and a sidebar with details for "Arizona 6th Grade Person...".

### ARIZONA EXEMPTION RATE - KINDERGARTEN

0-5%

FB Bucket  
0-5%

SCHOOL NAME  
MANZANITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - KINGMAN

ADDRESS  
2601 DETROIT AVENUE

CITY  
KINGMAN

COUNTY  
MOHAVE

ZIP  
86401

SCHOOL NURSE

### ARIZONA EXEMPTION RATES - 6TH GRADERS

Arizona 6th Grade Person...  
Laura Smith  
About

EN

# School Health Mentoring Forums

- Goals: To equip school health staff to effectively address immunization challenges in their school
- Virtual meetings targeting all school health staff, from all school types, within all of Arizona
- Applied for grant funding to continue the Mentoring Forum in the 2025-2026 school year
- Notify [Lsmith@tapi.org](mailto:Lsmith@tapi.org) if interested in participating in the 2025-2026 forums

Arizona students are being enrolled with more Personal Beliefs Exemptions than ever; this puts students and our communities at risk.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**JOIN US**

SCHOOL  
**HEALTH STAFF  
MENTORING FORUM**

**REFINE ABILITIES** **FREE!** **Immunization Data Reporting & Personal Exemptions**  
WITH PEER-TO-PEER GUIDANCE

**DESIGNED FOR YOU** **DATES AND TIMES**

- Both: Seasoned professionals AND newer health office staff
- Charter, public, private & tribal school employees
- All size schools
- All counties in Arizona

1. Wednesday, January 22, 2025
2. Wednesday, February 26, 2025
3. Wednesday, April 2, 2025

2:00 - 3:00 PM, VIRTUAL

**STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE & COMPETENCE**

Implement best practices to:

- manage processes related to Immunization Data Report (IDR)
- decrease Personal Belief Exemptions (PBEs) in your schools.

Attend all 3, complete the surveys & get entered to win one of 5 \$50 gift cards!

**REGISTER NOW!**

Questions?  
Contact: [LSmith@tapi.org](mailto:LSmith@tapi.org)



# Learn More About the Arizona School Immunization Coalition

1. Visit the Coalition's poster presentation in the Main Hall
2. Contact Laura Smith, [Lsmith@tapi.org](mailto:Lsmith@tapi.org) for more information

# Questions?



# Thank You!

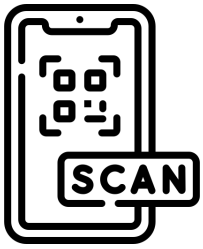
## Questions? Contact Us:

Lauren Krebs | School Epidemiologist  
[lauren.krebs@azdhs.gov](mailto:lauren.krebs@azdhs.gov) | 480-490-6084

Kate Whitman | Nurse Educator  
[kathleen.whitman@azdhs.gov](mailto:kathleen.whitman@azdhs.gov) | 480-259-5342







# Claim your Continuing Education Credit

Event Evaluation - April 15, 2025 -  
Session 3 Breakouts - School and  
Child Care



**Scan this QR code**

Claim your CE credits for physicians,  
nurses, CHES, MCHES, and  
non-Accredited Certificates of  
Attendance from the Arizona Alliance  
for Community Health Centers

**Pharmacy CEs pick up your QR code at the registration desk to Claim your CEs!**

