

# Oklahoma Kindergarten Immunization Survey FAQ



Immunization  
Service

## What is the purpose of this survey?

The purpose of the immunization survey is to measure vaccine compliance for all kindergarten students in Oklahoma enrolled in participating schools at the time the survey was completed during each school year. The survey measures up-to-date status for the six vaccines in the 4:3:2:3:2:1 series (i.e., diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, polio, measles/mumps/rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, and varicella). Vaccine-specific exemptions are also collected and stratified by medical and non-medical categories.

## How are immunization rates determined?

Up-to-date status is determined by counting valid vaccine doses received at or after the ACIP recommended age and time interval for the 4:3:2:3:2:1 series (i.e., diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, polio, measles/mumps/rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, and varicella). The denominator for each school is the number of kindergarten students with an immunization record or exemption record on file at the school.

## How does this survey benefit the state?

The survey helps monitor the year-to-year trends in vaccination rates within our Oklahoma kindergarten population. The results can then be used for data-driven public health policy and interventions. The annual statewide (not school specific) results are additionally submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC publishes the results of all states each fall. The most current publication can be found [here](#).

## Is this a mandatory survey?

No, this is a voluntary survey. Although the survey is not mandatory, we encourage all schools with kindergarten programs to participate for a greater understanding of immunization rates/trends. Analysis of this data drives public health policy and program activities to improve vaccination coverage in our state. Over 90% of all public kindergarten programs typically participate from year to year.

## When and how is this information collected from each school?

The immunization surveys are generally collected each year between November and April. The completed surveys represent a snapshot in time for each school. Kindergarten enrollment totals and immunization compliance may fluctuate throughout each school year. Schools submit vaccination coverage data via the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) system. This is a secure, web-based application for survey administration and data entry.

## Why are the results of my child's school not displayed?

There are two reasons a school may not have immunization numbers displayed. The first may be if a school didn't participate in the survey for that particular year. The second reason may be that a school has fewer than 10 kindergarten students enrolled. The data in these schools is withheld to protect student anonymity.

### **Why aren't charter school results displayed on the interactive map?**

Many kindergarten students who attend charter schools may not live in the county where the schools are physically located. Since the map helps to visually display geographic areas of vaccination coverage, the inclusion of charter schools may result in an inaccurate depiction of coverage in these areas.

### **Why do some county immunization rates differ slightly from the posted statewide infographic?**

County rates on the infographic include charter schools which are categorized as public schools by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their national kindergarten immunization publication. Since those schools are not included on the interactive map, it may affect the overall immunization rate for a select number of counties. Additionally, the county rates on the infographic are aligned with county assignments listed on the official Oklahoma State Department of Education State Accredited School Directory that is published each year. For a select number of schools, the GIS map may assign a different county based on the physical location of the school.

### **How will the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) know which schools or childcare facilities have children with exemptions enrolled in case of a disease outbreak that might impact enrollees with exemptions?**

In the event of a disease outbreak that might impact any school or childcare facility in Oklahoma, a representative of the local county health department or the OSDH will contact the school or childcare facility with instructions on informing the parents if the disease is a risk to any students, including those with exemptions.