

Vaccines Matter to Polk County



What is a VPD Outbreak?

A Vaccine-Preventable Disease, or VPD, outbreak (e.g., measles) may occur when community members are inadequately vaccinated against a disease. The TN Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment is a great way to understand your county's risk of an outbreak!

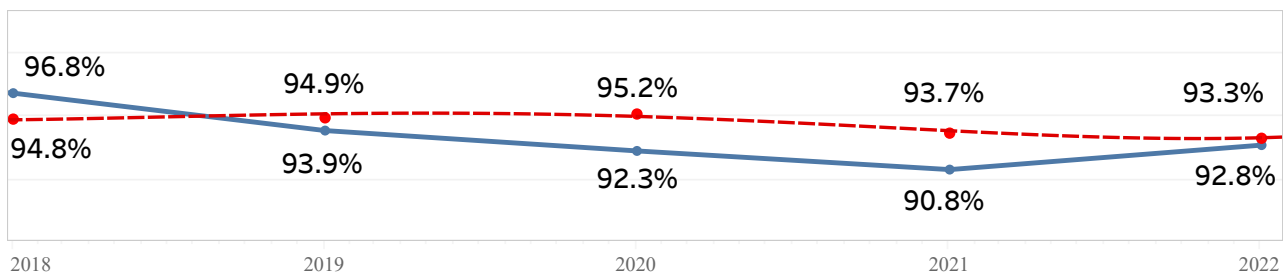
Polk County Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment (2022-23)

Overall, **92.8%** of 2022-2023 Polk County kindergarten students were fully immunized at enrollment. To remain at low risk for a VPD outbreak, this rate should remain above 95%.

Student Status	% (#) of Schools
At least 95% immunized Meets immunization goal	33% (1)
90% to 94.9% immunized Needs improvement	67% (2)
Below 90% immunized Vulnerable to preventable outbreaks	0% (0)

Kindergarten Immunization Trends 2018-2022

Percent of Fully-Immunized Students in Polk County vs statewide, by year



To keep highly infectious diseases such as measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough out of our schools and communities, we need immunization rates to be 95% or higher.

Facts Matter:

- 1** The United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history. Vaccines do not cause autism. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/z2vebhq>
- 2** Vaccines protect children from 16 diseases, including 2 that are known to cause cancer. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y5qlm546>
- 3** CDC estimates vaccines will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ep84dc>
- 4** Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and most Christian faiths (including Catholic and Baptist) have no tenets in opposition to vaccines. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jv489p>
- 5** 13 childhood vaccines are manufactured without the need of human cell culture. There are no fetal cells in vaccines. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y2h9veee>

COVID-19 Impact on Kindergarten Vaccines

Statewide, only 93.3% of all reported kindergarten students were fully-immunized representing an all-time low and indicating an increased risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

Religious exemptions increased 0.7% to an all time high of 3.0% of all reported kindergarten enrollment.

In 2022-2023, only 27% of the counties in Tennessee have 95% of their reported kindergarteners fully-immunized for vaccine-preventable diseases.

LEARN MORE!

The annual TN Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment is a census of the immunization status of every kindergarten student enrolled in public and private schools in Tennessee --more than 79,000 students! [Check out the full report, by school.](#)



<https://tinyurl.com/KSurvey23>

Reliable Resources



www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html



www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center



www.healthychildren.org



www.cdc.gov/vaccines



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