



## **Annual Report of Immunization Status of Students 2021-2022 School Year DSHS Immunization Section**

### **Background**

Texas requires public school districts and accredited private schools to annually submit a report of students' immunization status (Title 25 Health Services, Texas Administrative Code, §§97.61-97.72). The Annual Report of Immunization Status is a self-reported survey created by DSHS to measure immunization coverage among kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Information on why unvaccinated kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are not vaccinated is also collected. Additionally, the number of all kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (K-12) with a conscientious exemption affidavit on file is collected. The results of this report assist the Immunization Section in identifying schools, districts, and counties with low immunization coverage rates and those with high rates of non-compliance (i.e. students delinquent in meeting requirements).

### **Methods**

In September 2021, instructions for the Annual Report of Immunization Status were distributed to 1,196 public school districts and 957 accredited private schools in Texas. The survey is conducted online and can be completed between the last Friday in October and the second Friday in December. The survey collects aggregated data on the immunization status of the students, which includes reasons why a child is not vaccinated under Texas school entry requirements, as well as the total number of conscientious exemption affidavit forms filed at the public school district or private school. More detailed information by type of vaccine is collected for Kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Reports are prepared and submitted by staff at each public school district and accredited private school.

## Results

Over 92.06% of the schools or districts surveyed responded. Among the 5,367,490 K-12 students, 85,726 (1.60 percent) had a conscientious exemption for at least one vaccine on file at students' respective schools.

Tables 1 and 2 show aggregated statewide results from the Fall of 2021 for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade respectively. The percent completely immunized are shown for each vaccine. Immunization coverage was above 95% for only one vaccine in Kindergarten: Hepatitis B. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, immunization coverage was above 95% for all vaccines except for the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal MCWY (MCV4) vaccines. Reasons for not completing each vaccine series are also reported.

Tables 3 and 4 represent students who were completely vaccinated for each vaccine by region and grade level. Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of reported kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a conscientious exemption for one or more vaccines by county.

## Conclusion

Texas schools reported high rates of coverage for each vaccine included in the survey. However, compared to the 2020-2021 school year, kindergarten students had slightly lower coverage rates (approximately 1.0 percentage point for most vaccines) while 7<sup>th</sup> grade students reported similar coverage.

Rates for conscientious exemptions increased by about 0.5% for most vaccines and are now between 2.00% and 2.50%. Delinquency rates in Kindergarten students have also increased, with four vaccines now having delinquency rates over three percent. For 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, vaccination coverage and conscientious exemption rates remained stable compared to the 2020-2021 school year, with only minor increases or decreases. Additionally, delinquency rates for Tdap and MCV4 delinquency rates decreased slightly by about 1.0% for both.

Delinquency remains high for most vaccines in Kindergarten students and for Tdap and MCV4 in seventh grade students, most likely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Since the return of in-person learning in Fall 2021, at least [45 school districts](#) had temporary shutdowns due to COVID-19 outbreaks among staff and students, which could contribute to the higher delinquency rate. Efforts to catch up children on routine immunizations are ongoing.

**Table 1. Texas Kindergarten Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2021-2022**

Vaccine Category	Percent Completely Vaccinated	Reported Reasons for Lack of Completion, by Vaccine			
		Conscientious Exemptions	Medical Exemptions	Provisional Enrollment	Delinquent
		%	%	%	%
DTaP ( <i>Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis</i> )	93.77%	2.39%	0.11%	0.64%	3.09%
Hepatitis A	94.63%	2.25%	0.10%	1.10%	1.92%
Hepatitis B	95.95%	2.14%	0.08%	0.22%	1.62%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	94.04%	2.41%	0.14%	0.27%	3.14%
Polio	94.00%	2.39%	0.10%	0.42%	3.10%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	93.58%	2.42%	0.15%	0.57%	3.27%

\* An additional 0.18% of kindergarten students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

**Table 2. Texas 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2021-2022**

Vaccine Category	Percent Completely Vaccinated	Reported Reasons for Lack of Completion by Vaccine			
		Conscientious Exemptions	Medical Exemptions	Provisional Enrollment	Delinquent
		%	%	%	%
Tdap ( <i>Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis</i> )	92.18%	1.59%	0.08%	0.22%	5.93%
Hepatitis A	97.51%	1.08%	0.05%	0.35%	1.01%
Hepatitis B	97.86%	1.04%	0.04%	0.12%	0.94%
MCV4 ( <i>Meningococcal conjugate</i> )	91.94%	1.60%	0.07%	0.16%	6.22%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	98.02%	1.02%	0.06%	0.06%	0.83%
Polio	97.70%	1.10%	0.04%	0.15%	1.01%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	97.58%	1.12%	0.11%	0.15%	1.04%

\* An additional 0.80% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

**Table 3. Percent of Kindergarten Students Completely Vaccinated by Public Health Region, School Year 2021-2022**

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
DTaP <i>(Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis)</i>	94.23%	92.71%	94.99%	93.24%	93.47%	94.75%	93.56%	97.25%
Hepatitis A	94.80%	93.46%	95.30%	94.44%	94.06%	95.80%	94.81%	97.80%
Hepatitis B	96.24%	95.31%	96.64%	95.26%	95.42%	96.94%	96.30%	98.80%
MMR <i>(Measles, mumps, and rubella)</i>	94.83%	93.07%	95.70%	93.15%	93.75%	95.04%	94.23%	97.52%
Polio	94.69%	93.03%	95.47%	93.25%	93.57%	95.06%	93.88%	97.45%
Varicella* <i>(Chickenpox)</i>	94.27%	92.49%	95.28%	92.83%	93.11%	94.58%	93.75%	97.26%

\* This percentage does not reflect kindergarten students who met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

**Table 4. Percent of 7th Grade Students Completely Vaccinated by Public Health Region, School Year 2021-2022**

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
Tdap ( <i>Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis</i> )	95.03%	92.21%	96.23%	89.13%	93.72%	92.72%	90.42%	95.35%
Hepatitis A	98.37%	97.31%	98.15%	96.66%	97.33%	98.05%	97.70%	99.22%
Hepatitis B	98.64%	97.85%	98.40%	96.88%	97.64%	98.33%	98.22%	99.56%
MCV4 ( <i>Meningococcal conjugate</i> )	95.12%	92.32%	96.54%	87.99%	93.73%	92.56%	90.26%	95.48%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	98.68%	98.01%	98.48%	97.16%	97.96%	98.31%	98.35%	99.43%
Polio	98.48%	97.70%	98.33%	96.73%	97.43%	98.14%	97.96%	99.35%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	98.44%	97.56%	98.05%	96.57%	97.38%	98.05%	97.95%	99.29%

\* This percentage does not reflect 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

**Figure 1. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Conscientious Exemption on file for at least one vaccine, School Year 2021-2022**

