



**INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION**

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

May 25, 2022

RE: Increasing School Immunizations to Prevent Communicable Diseases

Dear Superintendents, School Administrators and School Nurses:

Thank you for the important work that you do every day to shape and mold the minds of Indiana's youth. We know that the past two school years have presented many challenges and have required creative solutions to meet the educational needs of your students.

The COVID-19 pandemic also has presented numerous health challenges for schools and students. One of the less publicized negative outcomes is a 10 percent reduction in childhood vaccination rates among Indiana children over the past two years. This puts our students at greater risk for diseases such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, and many others.

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) remain committed to ensuring that students are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and stay healthy in school. In anticipation of the upcoming school year, IDOH is working with local health departments, pharmacies, and healthcare providers across the state to increase vaccine access for school-required immunizations this summer. Our goal is to ensure that every county has access to additional immunization clinics in July and August so that youth have opportunities to be fully vaccinated for the upcoming school year. For these clinics to be successful, however, we need your assistance and active participation.

Indiana Code sets forth certain requirements for school immunizations. Indiana Code 20-34-4-2 requires IDOH to set immunization requirements by November 30 of each year so that schools, parents and healthcare providers have time to plan and prepare for the school immunization requirements for the upcoming school year. The requirements for the 2022-23 school year can be found [here](#).

Indiana Code 20-34-4-5 states that each school shall require parents to provide proof of student immunization status no later than the first day of school attendance. The same code also states that schools may grant one waiver for up to 20 days to allow students time to obtain the required school vaccines. Students who fail to comply with required school immunizations at the conclusion of this waiver period and who do not have a medical or religious exemption on file or other documentation indicating the immunizations are in progress are not in compliance with state law.

To help prevent such issues, IDOH will be sending notices to parents of children who are missing one or more vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. In addition, more information about the summer vaccination clinics will be shared with you in the coming weeks. We ask that you communicate this information to parents to help increase awareness of these vaccination opportunities.

Please reach out to IDOH Immunizations Director Dave McCormick at (317) 233-7010 or dmccormick@isdh.in.gov if you have any questions, need assistance, or have interest in holding a vaccination event for your school corporation.

Thank you again for all that you do.



Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner



Katie Jenner, Ed.D.
Indiana Secretary of Education