

**THE IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS
FOR THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting**

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FOREWORD

Immunization data are collected annually from Illinois public and nonpublic schools. This report is a compilation of the data on the immunization status of school-age children in Illinois for school year 2002-2003 and was prepared by Sharon Neely, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting. The interpretations and conclusions expressed herein have been prepared by staff and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The 2002-2003 immunization status of school-age children in Illinois resulted in a number of findings:

- The compliance level for all Illinois students is 93.83%.
- The compliance level for public school students is 90.97%.
- The compliance level for nonpublic school students is 98.02%.
- The data by specific disease category based on the percent of total student enrollment reveal that no more than 6.17% of Illinois students are unprotected and in noncompliance in any of the eight disease categories (polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella/chickenpox, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza type b—Hib). [However, hepatitis B and Hib percentages are also calculated based on the number of children *required to be immunized*. For hepatitis B, 4.68% of the required Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade children are unprotected and in noncompliance. For Hib, 4.06% of the required preschool children are unprotected and in noncompliance.]
- A statewide total of 45,639 students (6.17% of the total student enrollment of 739,184) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates on October 15, 2002, or on an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. Of this number, 37,425 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 8,214 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only.
- With 100% of Illinois public schools submitting immunization data, only 201 of the 4,212 schools (3.56%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.
- With 100% of Illinois nonpublic schools submitting immunization data, only 136 of 1,424 nonpublic schools (10.47%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.

BACKGROUND

As mandated by Section 27-8.1 (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) of the School Code, all children must comply with immunization and health examination requirements established by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). In addition, the School Code requires all public school districts and nonpublic schools to submit completed surveys to the Illinois State Board of Education summarizing compliance status of all children as of October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. This report summarizes the statewide immunization and health examination compliance data.

Every child must provide evidence to school administrators of receiving a health examination within one year prior to: (a) entering school for the first time (this includes nursery or preschool, special education, headstart programs, and students transferring into Illinois from out-of-state or out-of-country); (b) entering kindergarten; (c) entering the fifth-grade; and (d) entering ninth-grade. For every child attending schools where grade levels are not assigned, health examinations must be completed prior to the date of entering and within one year prior to the school year in which the child reaches the ages of 5, 10, and 15.

In August 1996, IDPH amended the Health Examination and Immunizations Act to include the hepatitis B and the haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccinations for the 1997-98 school year. *[It should be noted that in August 1997, IDPH announced a delay in the enforcement of the law for the hepatitis B requirement until the 1998-99 school year.]* In July 2002, IDPH amended the Health Examination and Immunizations Act to include varicella/chickenpox beginning in the 2002-2003 school year for children entering pre-school or kindergarten for the first time.

Exceptions to the immunization requirements are permitted for either religious or medical reasons, Section 27-8.1 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1). An exemption may be considered if the parents or legal guardians, who object to vaccinations and/or a medical examination for their child, must submit a signed statement of objection to the appropriate local school authority detailing the religious grounds for such objection. A medical exception is permitted when the child's physician reports on the health examination form or signed statement that administration of certain immunizing agents is medically contraindicated.

Unless a religious or medical exception is on file with the school, Illinois law requires that every child shall present proof of having had the required health examination and immunizations or of having begun an approved schedule of immunizations by October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. Any child failing to meet these requirements must be excluded from school until the requirements are met. A child deficient in any one disease category is classified as being in noncompliance.

Each public school district must have at least 90% of its students in compliance with the law. Pursuant to Section 18-8.05 (105 ILCS/5 18-08.5) of the School Code, should any district have less than a 90% compliance level, then 10% of each state aid payment must be withheld by the regional superintendent until the required compliance level is reached. No compliance level has been established for nonpublic schools nor have any sanctions been specified in statute. Nonpublic schools are, nonetheless, required by law to comply with the reporting regulations.

All of the data are provided to Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff who can then identify those areas where services and resources can most effectively be allocated to prevent disease outbreaks. Along with data concerning compliance levels and protection levels within disease categories, IDPH receives the names of all schools reporting less than a 90% compliance level and the names of all schools from which no data were received.

PROCEDURE

Data collection instruments and procedures used to collect immunization and health examination data are developed by staff of the Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with staff from the Illinois Department of Public Health. In August of each year, a district summary report is sent to each public school district superintendent and nonpublic school administrator along with an immunization school survey form (ISBE 70-11), for each public school or attendance center in the district and each nonpublic school registered with ISBE. Immunization school survey forms are also sent to the administrators of the two state-operated charter schools, and the regional superintendents operating regional programs (i.e., Safe Schools/Alternative Schools).

School administrators are required to provide information on the total number of children enrolled, the total number of children in compliance, and the total number of children in noncompliance for each of the eight disease categories. All immunization school survey forms are to be completed and returned to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before November 15 of each year.

RESULTS

Compliance Data

Compliance and protection levels for students are calculated based upon the information provided by Illinois school officials. Data reported by school officials show overall compliance with the requirements of the student health mandates for both immunizations and health examinations. Students in noncompliance are required to be excluded from school until their health examination and immunization records are in compliance with state law. Protection levels refer only to immunizations and denote the reported immunity against specific communicable diseases.

Students are identified as being in compliance with state law if they present proof of immunizations and health examinations, have exemptions for religious or medical reasons on file with the local school authority, or if they are on an approved schedule for completion of immunizations in a series.

Statewide Compliance. Table 1 in the Appendix contains the 2002-2003 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level for the total 2,376,751 reported public and nonpublic children in Illinois is 93.83%, a decrease from 97.14% in 2001-2002. The data shows 45,639 children (6.17% of the total student enrollment) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates. Of this number, 37,425 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 8,214 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. As of October 15, 2002, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, 20,158 children were excluded from Illinois schools. The number of exclusions continues to be significantly lower than the actual number of children in noncompliance. Part of this can be attributed to transfer students without records. Transfer students cannot be excluded from school, but they must be reported in noncompliance because records are not available to document immunization status.

Public District Compliance. With 100% of the Illinois public school districts reporting immunization data, the compliance level for the total 2,066,775 reported children is 90.97% (Table 1), a small decrease of 6.02% from the 2001-2002 compliance level of 96.99%. Of the 39,709 public school children in noncompliance, 32,654 public school children were in noncompliance in one or more disease categories, while 7,055 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. The number of students excluded from school on October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district, decreased from 28,570 in 2001-2002 to 18,737 in 2002-2003.

As Illinois law stipulates, all 892 public school districts reported compliance levels of 90% or greater. However, Illinois law does not specify compliance levels for individual schools within public school districts. There were 4,212 public schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 2000. Of the 4,212 schools, 201 schools (4.05%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%. All 201 schools were from Chicago Public School District 299.

Nonpublic School Compliance. There were 1,412 nonpublic schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 2002. All nonpublic schools (100%) reported immunization data to the Illinois State Board of Education by February 28, 2003, with 136 of 1,412 schools (9.45%) reporting compliance levels of less than 90%.

The compliance level for the total 299,414 reported children attending nonpublic schools is 98.02% (Table 1), a small increase from 97.95% in 2001-2002. Of the 5,930 nonpublic children reported to be in noncompliance, 4,771 are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 1,159 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. The number of students excluded from school on October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the nonpublic school, increased from 932 in 2000-2001 to 1,421 in 2002-2003.

Protection Levels

In order to be counted as fully protected, a student must present proof that the immunization series has been completed and/or present verification of immunity. The Illinois Department of Public Health has determined that a 90% protection level against each disease is recommended in order to prevent epidemics.

Statewide Protection. Table 2 in the Appendix displays the numbers and protection level percentages of all reported students who are fully protected against the diseases of polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella/chickenpox, hepatitis B, and Hib.

Hepatitis B and Hib protection level percentages are determined based upon all reported students, and also by the actual number of children *required to be immunized*. Hepatitis B is a requirement for children entering in a program below the kindergarten level and all children entering 5th grade in 1997-98 (all Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade children in 2002-2003). Hib is only required for children under 59 months of age entering in a school program below the kindergarten level (all Pre-K). Varicella/chickenpox is required for all students entering pre-school or kindergarten for the first time.

The 2002-2003 protection level percentages of all reported students are 97.37% for polio, 95.71% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 97.85% for measles, 98.62% for rubella, 98.61% for mumps, and 100.00% for varicella/chickenpox. Compared to last year, statewide protection levels for the disease categories listed above varied minimally. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib, based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 88.95% and 95.06% respectively, a slight increase from 88.03% and 94.85% in 2001-2002.

The percentage of all reported students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 2.39% or less across all eight disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance, based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 4.68% for hepatitis B and 4.06% for Hib.

Public School Protection. As reported in Table 3 (see Appendix), the levels of protection for public school students by disease category are 96.76% for polio, 94.62% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 97.66% for measles, 98.73% for rubella, 98.72% for mumps, and 100% for varicella/chickenpox. Compared to last year, public school protection levels for the disease categories listed above varied minimally. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 84.19% and 92.23% respectively, a slight decrease from 87.21% for hepatitis B, and Hib 93.84% for Hib in 2001-2002.

The percentage of all reported public school students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 3.38% or less across all eight disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance, based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 3.37% for hepatitis B and 0.37% for Hib.

Nonpublic School Protection. The levels of protection for nonpublic school students by disease category, as reported in Table 4 (see Appendix), are 98.26% for polio, 97.30% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.12% for measles, 98.45% for both rubella and mumps, and 100.00% for varicella/chickenpox. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib, based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 95.71% and 96.67% respectively. Compared to last year, nonpublic school protection levels for all the disease categories varied minimally.

The percentage of nonpublic school students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 2.06% or less across all eight disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance, based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized*, are 1.60% for hepatitis B and 2.06% for Hib.

SUMMARY

- The 2002-2003 compliance level for all public and nonpublic children in Illinois was 93.83%.
- Immunization data were received from 100% of all public and nonpublic schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 2002.
- All public school districts (892) reported compliance levels of 90% and over, except for Chicago Public School District 299, reporting 201 schools not meeting the 90% compliance level.
- The number of Illinois public and nonpublic students reported to be in noncompliance with immunization requirements decreased from 68,152 in 2001-2002 to 45,639 in 2002-2003.
- The number of students excluded from Illinois schools on October 15, 2002, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, decreased from 29,693 in 2001-2002 to 20,158 in 2002-2003.

Table 1. 2002-2003 Student Enrollment and Compliance Summary

State Totals	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			All Schools		
	2002 Number of Students	2002 Percent	2001 Percent	2002 Number of Students	2002 Percent	2001 Percent	2002 Number of Students	2002 Percent	2001 Percent
Compliance Status									
Students in compliance as of October 15, 2002	2,020,011	90.97%	96.99%	302,887	98.02%	98.14%	2,322,898	93.83%	97.14%
Students not in compliance: with immunization requirements with health examination only	39,709 7,055	9.03% 1.60%	2.50% 0.51%	5,930 1,159	1.98% 0.39%	1.56% 0.30%	45,639 8,214	6.17% 1.11%	2.38% 0.48%
Student Enrollment as of October 15, 2002	2,020,011	100.00%	100.00%	309,976	100.00%	100.00%	2,376,751	100.00%	100.00%
Students excluded from school as of October 15, 2002, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school	18,737			1,421			20,158		

Table 2. 2002-2003 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students by Disease Category

	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Varicella/ ChickenPox		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5-6-7-8-9-10th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
Immunization Status	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% Protected % of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	%Protected of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	719,728	97.37%	707,454	95.71%	723,271	97.85%	728,956	98.62%	728,927	98.61%	109,805	100.00%	327,741	44.34%	88.95%	56,362	7.62%	95.06%
Unprotected and in compliance:																		
Religious objection	1,589	0.21%	1,672	0.23%	1,622	0.22%	1,484	0.20%	1,488	0.20%	634	100.00%	1,543	0.21%	0.42%	258	0.03%	0.44%
Medical reasons	1,487	0.20%	1,883	0.25%	905	0.12%	598	0.08%	591	0.08%	583	100.00%	2,171	0.29%	0.59%	80	0.01%	0.13%
Approved schedule of completion	4,754	0.64%	10,482	1.42%	2,964	0.40%	521	0.07%	492	0.07%	1,149	100.00%	19,747 370,727	2.67% 50.15%	5.36% 368,457**	182 679,895	0.02% 91.98%	0.31% 59,289***
Not required to show proof of immunization																		
Unprotected and in noncompliance	11,626	1.57%	17,693	2.39%	10,422	1.41%	7,625	1.03%	7,686	1.04%	9,685	100.00%	17,255	2.33%	4.68	2,407	0.33%	4.06%
Total Enrollment	739,184	100.00%	739,184	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	739,184	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	119,347	100.00%	739,184	100.00%	100.00%	739,184	100.00%	100.00%

* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria
 ** Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders), Line E minus Line C
 *** Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

Table 3. 2002-2003 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students by Disease Category

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Varicella/Chicken Pox		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5-6-7-8-9-10th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% Protected % of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% Protected of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	425,518	96.76%	416,128	94.62%	429,478	97.66%	434,175	98.73%	434,143	98.72%	54,262	100.00%	182,071	41.40%	84.19%	19,774	4.50%	92.23%
Unprotected and in compliance:																		
Religious objection	443	0.10%	484	0.11%	434	0.10%	327	0.07%	327	0.07%	64	100.00%	400	0.09%	0.18%	21	0.00%	0.10%
Medical reasons	1,203	0.27%	1,481	0.34%	448	0.10%	168	0.04%	171	0.04%	240	100.00%	1,715	0.39%	0.79%	17	0.00%	0.08%
Approved schedule of completion	3,534	0.80%	6,816	1.55%	1,704	0.39%	26	0.01%	17	0.00%	156	100.00%	17,252	3.92%	7.98%	0	0.00%	0.00%
													223,510	50.82%	216,260**	418,329	95.12%	21,441***
Not required to show proof of immunization																		
Unprotected and in noncompliance	9,072	2.06%	14,861	3.38%	7,706	1.75%	5,074	1.15%	5,112	1.16%	7,707	100.00%	14,822	3.37%	6.85	1,629	037%	7.60%
Total Enrollment	439,770	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	62,097	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	100.00%	439,770	100.00%	100.00%

* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria

** Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders), Line E minus Line C

*** Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

Table 4. 2002-2003 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students by Disease Category

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Varicella/Chicken pox		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5-6-7-8-9-10th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% Protected % of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% Protected of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	294,210	98.26%	291,326	97.30%	293,793	98.12%	294,784	98.45%	294,784	98.45	55,543	100.00%	145,670	48.65%	95.71%	36,588	12.22%	96.67%
Unprotected and in compliance:																		
Religious objection	1,146	0.38%	1,188	0.40%	1,188	0.40%	1,157	0.39%	1,161	0.20%	570	100.00%	1,143	0.38%	0.75%	237	0.08%	0.63%
Medical reasons	284	0.09%	402	0.13%	458	0.15%	430	0.14%	420	0.08%	343	100.00%	456	0.15%	0.30%	63	0.02%	0.17%
Approved schedule of completion	1,220	0.41%	3,666	1.22%	1,260	0.42%	495	0.17%	475	0.07%	993	100.00%	2,495	0.83%	1.64%	182	0.06%	0.48%
													147,217	49.17%	152,197**	261,566	87.36%	37,848***
Not required to show proof of immunization																		
Unprotected and in noncompliance	2,554	0.85%	2,832	0.95%	2,716	0.91%	2,551	0.85%	2,574	0.86%	1,978	100.00%	2,433	0.81%	1.60%	778	0.26%	2.06%
Total Enrollment	299,414	100.00%	299,414	100.00%	299,414	100.00%	299,414	100.00%	739,184	100.00%	57,250	100.00%	299,414	100.00%	100.00%	299,414	100.00%	100.00%

* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria

** Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders), Line E minus Line C

*** Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2002-2003 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C