

**THE IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF SCHOOL-AGE  
CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS  
FOR THE 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR**

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman  
Illinois State Board of Education

Glenn W. M<sup>c</sup>Gee  
State Superintendent of Education

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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 1999-2000 and was prepared by Diane Baker, Research Division. 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 1999-2000 immunization status of school-age children in Illinois resulted in a number of positive findings:

- The compliance level for all Illinois students is 97.39%.
- The compliance level for public school students is 97.31%.
- The compliance level for nonpublic school students is 97.91%.
- The data by specific disease category based on the percent of total student enrollment reveal that no more than 1.11% of Illinois students are unprotected and in noncompliance in any of the seven disease categories (polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, 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, 3.82% of the required Pre-K, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade children are unprotected and in noncompliance. For Hib, 4.39% of the required preschool children are unprotected and in noncompliance.]
- A statewide total of 60,889 students (2.61% of the total student enrollment of 2,334,451) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates on October 15, 1999, or on an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. Of this number, 50,409 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 10,480 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only.
- With 100% of Illinois public schools submitting immunization data, only 240 of the 4,113 schools (5.84%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.
- Over 99% of the nonpublic schools reported immunization data. Only 127 of 1,385 nonpublic schools (9.17%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.

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**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.]* Therefore, for the current school year (1999-2000), proof of immunity must be provided to school officials against polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and Hib. Verification of having had measles, rubella, mumps or hepatitis B constitutes proof of immunity to those diseases.

Exceptions to the immunization requirements are permitted for either religious or medical reasons. In order for an exception to be considered, 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. For any district having less than a 90% compliance level, 10% of each state aid payment made pursuant to Section 18-8 (105 ILCS 5/18-8) of the School Code 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 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 along with an immunization school survey form (ISBE 70-11) for each public school or attendance center in that district. Immunization school survey forms are also sent to regional superintendents operating regional programs, i.e., Safe Schools/Alternative Schools, as well as administrators of all Illinois nonpublic schools.

School administrators are required to provide information on the total number of children enrolled, the total number of children in noncompliance, and the number of children in compliance for each of the seven disease categories. These survey instruments are to be returned by the district superintendent, regional superintendent, or nonpublic school administrator to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before November 15, 1999.

## 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 1999-2000 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level for the total 2,334,451 public and nonpublic children in Illinois is 97.39%, a slight increase from 97.25% in 1998-99. The data show 60,889 children (2.61% of the total student enrollment) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates. Of this number, 50,409 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 10,480 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. As of October 15, 1999, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, 17,662 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 2,015,486 children is 97.31% (Table 1), slightly higher than the 1998-99 compliance level of 97.16%. Of the 54,233 public school children in noncompliance, 44,997 are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 9,236 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, increased from 15,624 in 1998-99 to 16,486 in 1999-2000.

As Illinois law stipulates, all 898 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 4,113 public schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 1999: 3,488 from downstate public schools; 596 from



Chicago Public School District 299; and 29 regionally-operated programs, i.e., Safe Schools/Alternative Schools. Of the 4,113 schools, 240 (5.84%) schools reported compliance levels of less than 90%: 63 from downstate public schools and 177 from Chicago Public School District 299.

Nonpublic School Compliance. There were 1,398 nonpublic schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 1999. Of that number, 1,385 nonpublic schools reported immunization data to the Illinois State Board of Education by February 16, 2000. This is a response rate of 99.07%. Of those nonpublic schools reporting, 127 schools (9.17%) have compliance levels of less than 90%.

The compliance level for the total 318,965 children attending nonpublic schools is 97.91% (Table 1), an increase from 97.83% in 1998-99. Of the 6,656 children reported to be in noncompliance, 5,412 are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 1,244 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, decreased from 1,338 in 1998-99 to 1,176 in 1999-2000.

#### 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, 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 1997-98 (all Pre-K, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade children in 1999-2000). Hib is only required for children under 59 months of age entering in a school program below the kindergarten level (all Pre-K).

The 1999-2000 protection level percentages of all reported students are 98.56% for polio, 98.26% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.68% for measles, 99.06% for rubella, and 99.05% for mumps. 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 86.11% and 94.77% respectively, an increase from 82.01% and 94.26% in 1998-99.

The percentage of all reported students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 1.11% or less across all seven disease categories. The

reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 3.82% for hepatitis B and 4.39% for Hib.

Public School Protection. As reported in Table 3 (see Appendix), the levels of protection for public school students by disease category are 98.56% for polio, 98.25% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.75% for measles, 99.16% for rubella and mumps. 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 85.08% and 93.84% respectively, an increase from 80.24% and 92.92% in 1998-99.

The percentage of public schools students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 1.12% or less across all seven disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 4.10% for hepatitis B and 5.59% for Hib.

Nonpublic School Protection. The levels of protection for nonpublic school students by disease category, as reported in Table 4 (see Appendix), are 98.50% for polio, 98.33% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.24% for measles, 98.39% for rubella, and 98.38% for mumps. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 91.27% and 96.31% 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 1.07% or less across all seven disease categories. The reported percentage of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* is 2.43% for both hepatitis B and Hib.

## SUMMARY

Findings of a positive nature include:

- The 1999-2000 compliance level for all public and nonpublic children in Illinois was 97.39%.
- Immunization data were received from 100% of the public school districts (898) in operation and serving students on October 15, 1999. All districts reported compliance levels of 90% and over.
- Immunization data were received from 1,385 of the 1,398 nonpublic schools (99.07%) as of February 16, 2000.

- The number of students reported to be in noncompliance with immunization requirements decreased by 2,721 students (from 63,610 in 1998-99 to 60,889 in 1999-2000).
- The number of schools reporting compliance levels of less than 90% decreased by 32 schools (from 399 in 1998-99 to 367 in 1999-2000).

The following negative condition is noteworthy, but overall, the immunization status of all children in Illinois schools is stable:

- The number of students excluded from Illinois schools on October 15, 1999, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, increased slightly by 700 students (from 16,962 in 1998-99 to 17,662 in 1999-2000).

## **APPENDIX**

**Table 1. 1999-2000 Student Enrollment and Compliance Summary**

State Totals	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			All Schools		
	1999 Number of Students	1999 Percent	1998 Percent	1999 Number of Students	1999 Percent	1998 Percent	1999 Number of Students	1999 Percent	1998 Percent
Compliance Status									
Students in compliance as of October 15, 1999	1,961,253	97.31%	97.16%	312,309	97.91%	97.83%	2,273,562	97.39%	97.25%
Students not in compliance: with immunization requirements	44,997	2.23%	2.41%	5,412	1.70%	1.84%	50,409	2.16%	2.33%
with health examination only	9,236	0.46%	0.43%	1,244	0.39%	0.33%	10,480	0.45%	0.42%
Student Enrollment as of October 15, 1999	2,015,486	100.00%	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	100.00%
Students excluded from school as of October 15, 1999	16,486			1,176			17,662		

**Table 2. 1999-2000 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Students (both Public and Nonpublic) by Disease Category**

	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th & 7th 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	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	2,300,746	98.56%	2,293,776	98.26%	2,303,688	98.68%	2,312,445	99.06%	2,312,380	99.05%	545,272	23.36%	86.11%	92,456	3.96%	94.77%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	3,021	0.13%	3,158	0.14%	3,100	0.13%	2,796	0.12%	2,796	0.12%	1,701	0.07%	0.27%	199	0.01%	0.20%
Medical reasons	3,057	0.13%	3,676	0.16%	2,660	0.11%	1,585	0.07%	1,604	0.07%	2,519	0.11%	0.40%	172	0.01%	0.18%
Approved schedule of completion	7,004	0.30%	7,976	0.34%	5,250	0.22%	1,843	0.08%	1,857	0.08%	59,529	2.55%	9.40%	441	0.02%	0.45%
Not required to show proof of immunization											1,701,231	72.87%	633,220 **	2,236,896	95.82%	97,555 ***
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>20,623</u>	<u>0.88%</u>	<u>25,865</u>	<u>1.11%</u>	<u>19,753</u>	<u>0.85%</u>	<u>15,782</u>	<u>0.68%</u>	<u>15,814</u>	<u>0.68%</u>	<u>24,199</u>	<u>1.04%</u>	<u>3.82%</u>	<u>4,287</u>	<u>0.18%</u>	<u>4.39%</u>
Total Enrollment	2,334,451	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	2,334,451	100.00%	100.00%	2,334,451	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 1999-2000 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th and 7th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 1999-2000 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

**Table 3. 1999-2000 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students by Disease Category**

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th & 7th 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	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	1,986,556	98.56%	1,980,131	98.25%	1,990,344	98.75%	1,998,607	99.16%	1,998,571	99.16%	449,177	22.29%	85.08%	56,892	2.82%	93.84%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	2,256	0.11%	2,358	0.12%	2,286	0.11%	2,030	0.10%	2,031	0.10%	1,093	0.05%	0.21%	44	0.00%	0.07%
Medical reasons	2,763	0.14%	3,225	0.16%	2,206	0.11%	1,180	0.06%	1,190	0.06%	2,137	0.11%	0.40%	59	0.00%	0.10%
Approved schedule of completion	6,360	0.32%	7,234	0.36%	4,305	0.21%	1,189	0.06%	1,210	0.06%	53,887	2.67%	10.21%	241	0.01%	0.40%
Not required to show proof of immunization											1,487,554	73.81%	527,932 **	1,954,859	96.99%	60,627 ***
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>17,551</u>	<u>0.87%</u>	<u>22,538</u>	<u>1.12%</u>	<u>16,345</u>	<u>0.81%</u>	<u>12,480</u>	<u>0.62%</u>	<u>12,484</u>	<u>0.62%</u>	<u>21,638</u>	<u>1.07%</u>	<u>4.10%</u>	<u>3,391</u>	<u>0.17%</u>	<u>5.59%</u>
Total Enrollment	2,015,486	100.00%	2,015,486	100.00%	2,015,486	100.00%	2,015,486	100.00%	2,015,486	100.00%	2,015,486	100.00%	100.00%	2,015,486	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 1999-2000 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th and 7th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 1999-2000 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

**Table 4. 1999-2000 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students by Disease Category**

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th & 7th 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	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	314,190	98.50%	313,645	98.33%	313,344	98.24%	313,838	98.39%	313,809	98.38%	96,095	30.13%	91.27%	35,564	11.15%	96.31%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	765	0.24%	800	0.25%	814	0.26%	766	0.24%	765	0.24%	608	0.19%	0.58%	155	0.05%	0.42%
Medical reasons	294	0.09%	451	0.14%	454	0.14%	405	0.13%	414	0.13%	382	0.12%	0.36%	113	0.04%	0.31%
Approved schedule of completion	644	0.20%	742	0.23%	945	0.30%	654	0.21%	647	0.20%	5,642	1.77%	5.36%	200	0.06%	0.54%
Not required to show proof of immunization											213,677	66.99%	105,288 **	282,037	88.42%	36,928
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>3,072</u>	<u>0.96%</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>1.04%</u>	<u>3,408</u>	<u>1.07%</u>	<u>3,302</u>	<u>1.04%</u>	<u>3,330</u>	<u>1.04%</u>	<u>2,561</u>	<u>0.80%</u>	<u>2.43%</u>	<u>896</u>	<u>0.28%</u>	<u>2.43%</u>
Total Enrollment	318,965	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	318,965	100.00%	100.00%	318,965	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 1999-2000 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th & 7th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 1999-2000 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C