



SCHOOL DISTRICT IMMUNIZATION FACT SHEETS

A How-To Guide for Utilizing this Resource

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition piloted the creation of custom Colorado school district level immunization fact sheets using data from the 2017-2018 school year made publicly available by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This year, CCIC has again created fact sheets for all districts who reported immunization data to CDPHE for the 2018-19 school year. These fact sheets were initially created as a tool to provide context and help guide discussion and collaboration between school nurses, school administration and local public health on how to ensure vaccination coverage levels are high enough to protect students, staff and community members from serious, preventable disease. The fact sheets are also useful to share with parents, family members, providers, policymakers and the wider Colorado community.

TO DATE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IMMUNIZATION FACT SHEETS HAVE BEEN USED TO:

- Increase education, communication and coordination of efforts between local public health, school nurses and administrators, providers, families and community members
- Guide school district decisions to enforce policies already in place regarding students without up-to-date vaccines
- Compare rates across districts and collaborate with public health on efforts to improve immunization rates
- Guide stories for local newsletters, newspapers articles, and other media opportunities
- Share with the broader community through social media (i.e. Facebook)
- Inform discussion with the Board of Health, School Boards and state legislators
- Educate community members at a local health fair
- Help district strategic planning and emergency preparedness response efforts
- Support requests for hosting school immunization clinics to increase immunization rates and improve compliance with school immunization rules and regulations

CUSTOM DISTRICT-SPECIFIC MESSAGES

To highlight specific successes or cases of vaccine-preventable disease in a particular school district, local public health in some districts provided custom messages to be included on the fact sheets. If you would like a district-specific message included on your district's fact sheet, please contact ccicoffice@childrenscolorado.org.

Example custom messages provided by local public health to highlight successes in high performing districts:

Highlighting Success:

The Otero County Health Department (OCHD) works closely with school districts in Crowley and Otero counties. Their mutual goal is to protect children and adolescents against vaccine-preventable diseases. As a result of their collaboration, for all schools located in their jurisdiction, immunization rates are high. In order to reduce any barriers that prevent individuals from being immunized, OCHD offers frequent immunization clinics at each office and works with the schools to set up on-site clinics as needed.

Highlighting Success:

Strong work and diligence from school healthcare workers and support of school administrative staff along with local healthcare providers, community partners, and parental compliance have kept Cañon City Schools on the right path to help prevent an outbreak from the diseases covered by these vaccines.

Example Case in Point messages:

Case in Point:

Recent Colorado and national cases and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, mumps, influenza, whooping cough and chickenpox highlight the importance of ensuring the children in Garfield County School District 16 are fully immunized so that they, and the entire community around them, are protected from serious illness. Between the years of 2013-2018, 47 Garfield County students were diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough). There was at least one case of pertussis reported from Parachute to Carbondale; however, 75% of cases reported came from Carbondale and Glenwood Springs.

Case in Point:

Fremont County has had 59 reported cases of pertussis (whooping cough) since January 1, 2016. Of these cases, 26 were in a short time span in 2017 which prompted one child care facility to initiate closure for a short time to avoid further spread. Immunization rates continue to fall below what is needed to achieve herd immunity, which puts these communities at a higher risk for possible outbreaks. Continued work from dedicated school health professionals and support from school administration, as well as compliance from parents, can change this.

Case in Point:

In 2017, 31 Boulder County students were diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough) while enrolled in school, and five schools in Boulder County had more than one confirmed case of pertussis. Public health pertussis notification letters were distributed to 11 schools in the same school year.

ONLINE DASHBOARDS

To supplement the fact sheets, CCIC created interactive online data dashboards which allow users to view more detailed information about school immunization across Colorado, such as antigen-specific information and how vaccination coverage varies across schools within a district. Users can also compare data from the 2017-18 school year to data from the 2018-19 school year.

HELPING FAMILIES ACCESS VACCINES

For many families across Colorado, accessing and paying for vaccines for their children can prove challenging. As school and public health professionals, you can serve as a resource to help direct families to providers that offer free-or low-cost vaccines in their area, particularly [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) providers. You can find a list of VFC providers in Colorado through CDPHE's VFC provider finder tool at www.COVax4kids.org. More information on who is eligible for the VFC program can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>.

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Please visit www.COSchoolIZ.org for a listing of additional relevant resources you may find helpful.