

Required Immunizations for School and Child Care

Vaccination is a medical intervention with direct benefits to *both* individuals and communities. When a large percentage of a population is vaccinated against a pathogen, the entire community (vaccinated and unvaccinated) receives additional protection. This concept, known as 'herd immunity,' is a primary justification for mandatory vaccination policies in the United States.

In the U.S., all states require children attending public school or state-licensed day care facilities to receive a series of vaccinations. Vaccination requirements for school and day care attendance are critical to ensuring high rates of vaccination. Linking vaccination with school attendance, which is also required by law, ensures that vaccines reach the greatest number of children. Schools are a prime venue for the transmission of vaccine-preventable disease, and active school-age children can further spread disease to their families and others with whom they interact.¹

Specific vaccine requirements for school and child care vary by state. The Connecticut immunization laws and regulations can be found on the [Department of Public Health's Immunization Program web page](#). Each school and child care program is responsible for ensuring that attendees are in compliance with the vaccine requirements.

Immunization Survey

Each year the Department of Public Health distributes an immunization survey to all Connecticut schools and licensed group day care homes and child care centers. On the survey, the total number of attendees who completed the required vaccine series, the number who failed to complete the required vaccine series, and the number of children with a religious or medical exemption are reported. This information is reported for all child care attendees on the child care survey and for all kindergarten and seventh grade students on the school survey. In addition, influenza vaccine receipt is surveyed for all preschool² attendees. Individual vaccine information on each child is not collected; only total numbers are collected from each school and child care facility.

Typically survey results for the current school year will not be available until the summer or fall of the next school year. State law bars the disclosure of individual school or school district immunization survey data. For the purposes of the survey and the summary below, "vaccinated" is the number of vaccinated students divided by the total number of students in attendance for that grade level. "Compliance" is defined as the number of students fully vaccinated divided by the subtotal of students excluding those with exemptions (subtotal =total number of students minus the number of exempt students).

Statewide Data Summary of Religious and Medical Exemptions, 1999–2013

2012-2013 School Year

- [Statewide Summary Statistics](#) includes summary immunization information for kindergarten, seventh grade, and influenza vaccine for preschool
- [County Summary Statistics](#) includes county summary immunization information for kindergarten, seventh grade, and influenza vaccine for preschool

2013-2014 School Year

- [Statewide Summary Statistics](#) includes summary immunization information for kindergarten, seventh grade, and influenza vaccine for preschool

- **County Summary Statistics** includes county summary immunization information for kindergarten, seventh grade, and influenza vaccine for preschool

1 http://www.vaccineethics.org/issue_briefs/requirements.php

2 Includes preschool programs run by local boards of education; preschool programs located in child care centers are counted on the child care survey.