

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Regional Offices of Education and all Illinois Schools and Daycares via their Regional Offices of Education

**FROM:** IDPH Immunization Section

**DATE:** April 8, 2024

**RE:** Illinois Measles Outbreak: School Action Request & IDPH School Vaccination Dashboard

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**The Illinois Department of Health Immunization Section requests your immediate action to help avoid a measles outbreak in Illinois schools. Please share with schools and daycares in your region.**

Your help in ensuring that students are vaccinated and that proper outbreak control measures are taken is critical in preventing the spread of measles. Included in this memo you will find information on how to utilize the IDPH school vaccination dashboard as well as an urgent call to action we strongly urge your participation in.

As you may know, we are experiencing an outbreak of measles in Illinois that includes adults and children. The current outbreak is concentrated in northeast Illinois with cases in Cook, Will and Lake Counties. These cases have subsequently resulted in multiple exposures in schools in the affected areas. Measles is highly contagious especially in school-aged children. To prevent the spread of infection, it is critical that you ensure that students have the age-appropriate number of doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine, or other evidence of immunity to measles. We also encourage you to work with your local health departments for questions related to infection control measures.

**To that end, we ask that you participate in the following action items to help avoid a measles outbreak in Illinois schools. Please share these requests with your district schools and stress to them that it is vital to carry out the following recommendations:**

- Review the immunization records of all your students.
  - Illinois requires 1 dose of MMR for daycare students aged  $\geq 12$  months and pre-school aged students, and 2 doses of MMR vaccine for students in grades K through 12, unless

they have other presumptive evidence of measles immunity, which includes laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease.

- Schools shall keep susceptibility lists by disease category with the names of students who are not fully vaccinated. This would be needed if students must be excluded from school during an outbreak. This includes students who are not completely vaccinated due to religious exemption, medical exemption, McKinney-Vento exception, on an approved schedule, or non-compliance with measles vaccination.
- Follow up with students that are not immune to measles. Here are suggested materials to share with families. Remind them of the school's exclusion procedure in case of exposure.
  - [MMR \(Measles, Mumps, and Rubella\) VIS What You Need to Know \(English\)](#)
  - [MMR \(Measles, Mumps, and Rubella\) VIS What You Need to Know \(Current Translations\)](#)
- Review your school policies and the IDPH Administrative Code Part 690, [Section 690.520 MEASLES, SUSPECT, PROBABLE OR CONFIRMED](#) regarding exclusion of susceptible students and personnel. Remind families of students who are not fully vaccinated of the school's outbreak control exclusion procedure.
- If you learn of any students with measles in your school, immediately contact the [local health department](#). If unable to reach your LHD, call IDPH 217-782-2016; after hours 217-782-2016 to ensure that control measures are implemented.

## MEASLES COVERAGE

Pursuant to the Student Health Examination and Immunization Code, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) requires students attending school to be vaccinated to keep themselves and their classmates and staff safe. Vaccines directly protect those students who receive the vaccinations and limit spread for the population as a whole. For those who are not eligible for certain vaccines, having a critical portion of the population immunized, contains the spread of contagious diseases. Community immunity thresholds are based on herd immunity and critical vaccination thresholds. Schools should be aiming for a critical vaccination threshold of at least 96% coverage, but at a minimum, schools should have at least 91% coverage to achieve herd immunity.

## INFORMATION ON THE IDPH DASHBOARD

The [Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#) is available as a key resource. This dynamic platform offers a visual and interactive interface showcasing health-related immunization data and comprehensive school program information annually from 2014 to 2023. Derived exclusively from publicly available Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) data, the dashboard provides invaluable

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insight into vaccination coverage trends. Updated annually, the most recent data reflects statistics as recent as October 2023, empowering stakeholders with up-to-date information to make informed decisions regarding public health initiatives and educational policies. Schools can utilize the dashboard to find individual school details and see how their coverage compares to other schools geographically (e.g., state, district). The Illinois School Vaccination Dashboard also includes features to enable filtering and isolation of data elements based on user interest. Please refer to the [“Data Overview”](#) section within the dashboard for additional information on data fields and methodology.

The Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard includes data directly from the ISBE public use data files [Immunization School Survey Results](#) and [Directory of Education Entities](#).

*Note: Immunization data contained within the Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard is publicly available and in compliance with ISBE and IDPH data privacy and security policies.*

### Key Data Elements

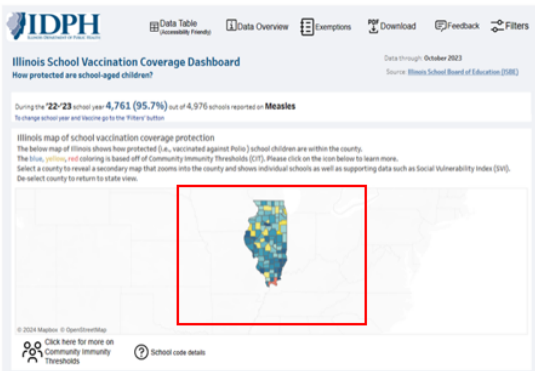
- Dynamic descriptive reporting header that displays the selected school year, number of schools (total % of schools) reporting immunization data, and the selected vaccine.
- Interactive mapping displaying the average immunization coverage of schools by county, that can be filtered by:
  - **Geography**- ZIP Code, census tract, urbanicity/rurality, school location, and district
  - **Community Vulnerability**- Community Immunity Thresholds and Social Vulnerability Indexes (SVI)
  - **School Characteristics**- funding type, affiliation, and population
- Comprehensive visualizations including:
  - **Data Table**- school program and coverage level data
  - **Exemptions**- data and trends
  - **Protection (%) Trends**- Coverage trends at combined state, county, and/or district levels.

## DASHBOARD USER GUIDE SUMMARY

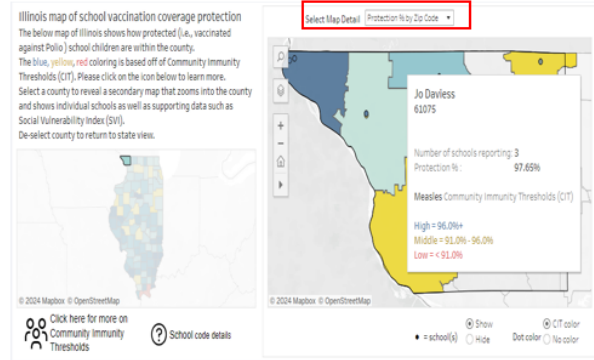
This summary will guide the user to navigate the dashboard features. Please refer to the sections below for guidance on data visualizations you can create with filtering options, immunization trends, and comprehensive data table.

## Filtering Options:

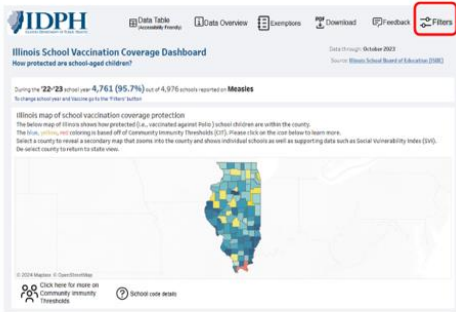
1. Select county on map.



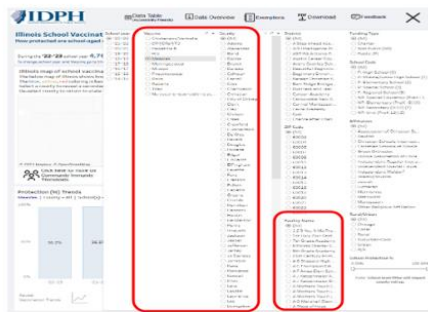
2. Filter by ZIP Code, census tract, or community map. Note: Dots indicate schools.



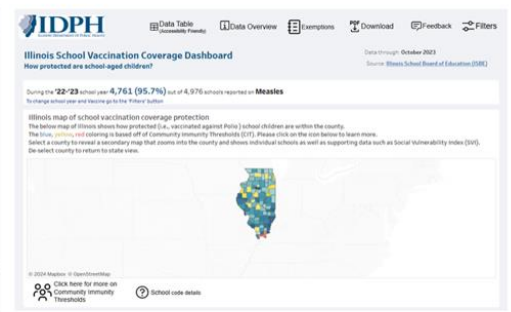
1. Filter selection.



2. Select Vaccine Type, County, and Facility Name.

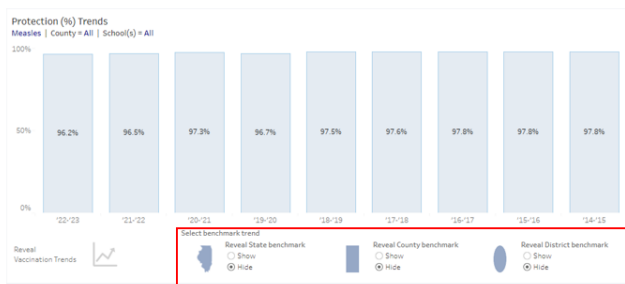


3. Close the filter to view selections.

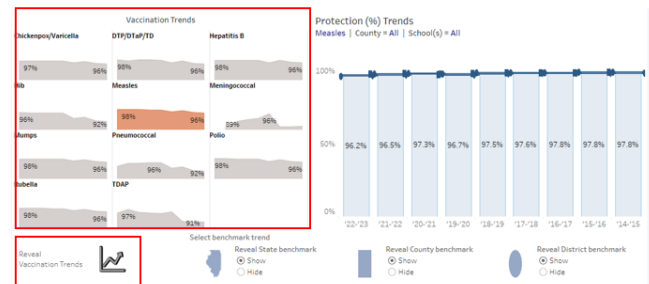


## Immunization Trends:

1. Compare coverage trends across geographies (e.g., state, county).



2. View trends for all routine vaccinations.



**Comprehensive Data Table:** View individual school program information and vaccination coverage by using the “Data Table”. Schools are highlighted based on their community immunity threshold.

*Community Immunity Thresholds (CIT)*

School has reached critical vaccination threshold (96%+)
School is below the critical vaccination threshold but at the herd immunity threshold (91%-96%)
School is well below the herd immunity threshold (91-96%) and below the critical vaccination threshold (96%)

1. Select Data Table.

2. View individual school program information and coverage.

Grade Served	Enrollment PreK-12	Census Tract SVI	Protection (%)
P-8	392	0.3213	97.7%
P-10	98	0.0424	74.5%
P-8	34	0.9208	97.1%
P-8	405	0.0537	100.0%
P-8	145	0.4432	89.7%
P-12	294	0.3523	91.8%
P-8	96	0.2313	92.7%
6-12	<10	0.2589	80.0%
P-12	155	0.8431	89.7%
P-8,U	160	0.2832	89.4%

## SCHOOL PERSONNEL ACCESS TO ILLINOIS IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY (I-CARE)

### What is I-CARE

I-CARE, or Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange, is a web-based immunization record-sharing application that allows public and private healthcare providers to share the immunization records of Illinois residents with other providers statewide.

### How to Enroll in I-CARE

The [I-CARE enrollment website](#) allows you to find tools and resources to complete the following:

- new organizations can complete site enrollments and designate a Portal Registration Authority (PRA),
- current organizations can report site updates and PRA changes,
- individuals can request I-CARE Access.

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## HOW TO ACCESS INDIVIDUAL ILLINOIS IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Individuals can request immunization records by:

- Contacting their primary care provider
- Online access through [Vax Verify to Access Records Online](#)
- Request Immunization Records from IDPH
  - [Authorization to Release Immunization Records \(English\)](#)
  - [Authorization to Release Immunization Records \(En Español\)](#)

## RESOURCES

[CDC Immunization Webpage](#)

[CDC Immunization Schedules, 2024](#)

[Illinois Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization Code](#)

[Illinois Department of Public Health's Measles Update for Daycares and Schools](#)

[Measles, Mumps, and Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know](#)

[CDC's Measles Outbreak Toolkit](#)

[Study: Evaluation of the establishment of herd immunity in the population by means of serological surveys and vaccination coverage](#)

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

For help, questions or feedback please contact the IDPH Immunization Section at [dph.coveragelevel@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.coveragelevel@illinois.gov) or call 217-785-1455 and select option 3.

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