A Vaccine-Preventable Disease, or VPD, outbreak (e.g., measles) may occur when community members are inadequately vaccinated against a disease. The TN Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment is a great way to understand your county’s risk of an outbreak!

**What is a VPD Outbreak?**

Overall, 94.3% of 2021-2022 Carter County kindergarten students were fully immunized at enrollment. To remain at low risk for a VPD outbreak, this rate should remain above 95%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Status</th>
<th>% (#) of Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 95% immunized Meets immunization goal</td>
<td>67% (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 94.9% immunized Needs improvement</td>
<td>25% (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 90% immunized Vulnerable to preventable outbreaks</td>
<td>8% (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kindergarten Immunization Trends 2017-2021**

Percent of Fully-Immunized Students in CARTER County vs **statewide**, by year

To keep highly infectious diseases such as measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough out of our schools and communities, we need immunization rates to be 95% or higher.
Facts Matter:

1. The United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history. Vaccines do not cause autism. Source: https://tinyurl.com/z2yebhq

2. Vaccines protect children from 16 diseases, including 2 that are known to cause cancer. Source: https://tinyurl.com/v5qlm546

3. CDC estimates vaccines will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years. Source: https://tinyurl.com/y7ep84dc

4. Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and most Christian faiths (including Catholic and Baptist) have no tenets in opposition to vaccines. Source: https://tinyurl.com/y5jv489p

5. 13 childhood vaccines are manufactured without the need of human cell culture. There are no fetal cells in vaccines. Source: https://tinyurl.com/y2b9veee

COVID-19 Impact on Kindergarten Vaccines

Only 93.7% of all reported kindergarten students were fully-immunized representing an all-time low and indicating an increased risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

Statewide we saw a 0.5% increase in religious exemptions to an all-time high of 2.3% of all reported kindergarten enrollment.

In 2021-2020, only 45% of the counties in Tennessee have 95% of their reported kindergarteners fully-immunized for vaccine-preventable diseases.

LEARN MORE!

The annual TN Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment is a census of the immunization status of every kindergarten student enrolled in public and private schools in Tennessee --more than 73,000 students! Check out the full report, by school.

https://tinyurl.com/yhxkwxc8

Reliable Resources

- www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html
- www.chop.educenters-programs/vaccine-education-center
- www.healthychildren.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines