What is a VPD Outbreak?

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!

Smith County Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment (2021-22)

Overall, 96.2% of 2021-2022 Smith 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</td>
<td>80% (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets immunization goal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 94.9% immunized</td>
<td>20% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs improvement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 90% immunized</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable to preventable outbreaks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten Immunization Trends 2017-2021

Percent of Fully-Immunized Students in SMITH 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](https://tinyurl.com/z2yebhq)

2. **Vaccines protect children from 16 diseases, including 2 that are known to cause cancer.**
   
   Source: [https://tinyurl.com/v5qlm546](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](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](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/y2h9veee](https://tinyurl.com/y2h9veee)

### 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 kindergartners 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.

Reliable Resources

- [www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html](https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html)
- [www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center](https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center)
- [www.healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)
- [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)