



Michigan's Plan to Reduce Immunization Exemptions in Schools

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School Immunization Reporting Process

- ◆ Schools in Michigan are required to report the immunization status of all Kindergarten, 7th grade, and new enrollees to a school district.
- ◆ School immunization reports are due November 1st and February 1st of each year.
- ◆ Children who do not have a complete immunization record or a signed waiver on file are not allowed be enrolled in the school.

PARENTS

VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY IN MICHIGAN

Whenever children are brought into group settings, there is a chance for diseases to spread. Children must follow state vaccine laws in order to attend school. These laws are the minimum standard to help prevent disease outbreaks in school settings. The best way to protect your child from other serious diseases is to follow the recommended vaccination schedule at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. Talk to your health care provider to make sure your child is fully protected.



	All Kindergarteners and 4-6 year old transfer students	All 7th Graders and 7-18 year old transfer students
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)	4 doses DTP or DTaP 1 dose must be at or after 4 years of age	4 doses D and T or 3 doses Td if 1st dose given at or after 1 year of age 1 dose Tdap at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
Polio	4 doses 3 doses if dose 3 was given at or after 4 years of age	
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)*	2 doses at or after 12 months of age	
Hepatitis B*	3 doses	
Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY)	None	1 dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
Varicella (Chickenpox)*	2 doses at or after 12 months of age or Current lab immunity or History of varicella disease	

During disease outbreaks, incompletely vaccinated students may be excluded from school. Parents and guardians choosing to decline vaccines must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department. Read more about waivers at www.michigan.gov/immunize.

*If the child has not received these vaccines, documented immunity is required.

All doses of vaccines must be valid (correct spacing and ages) for school entry purposes.

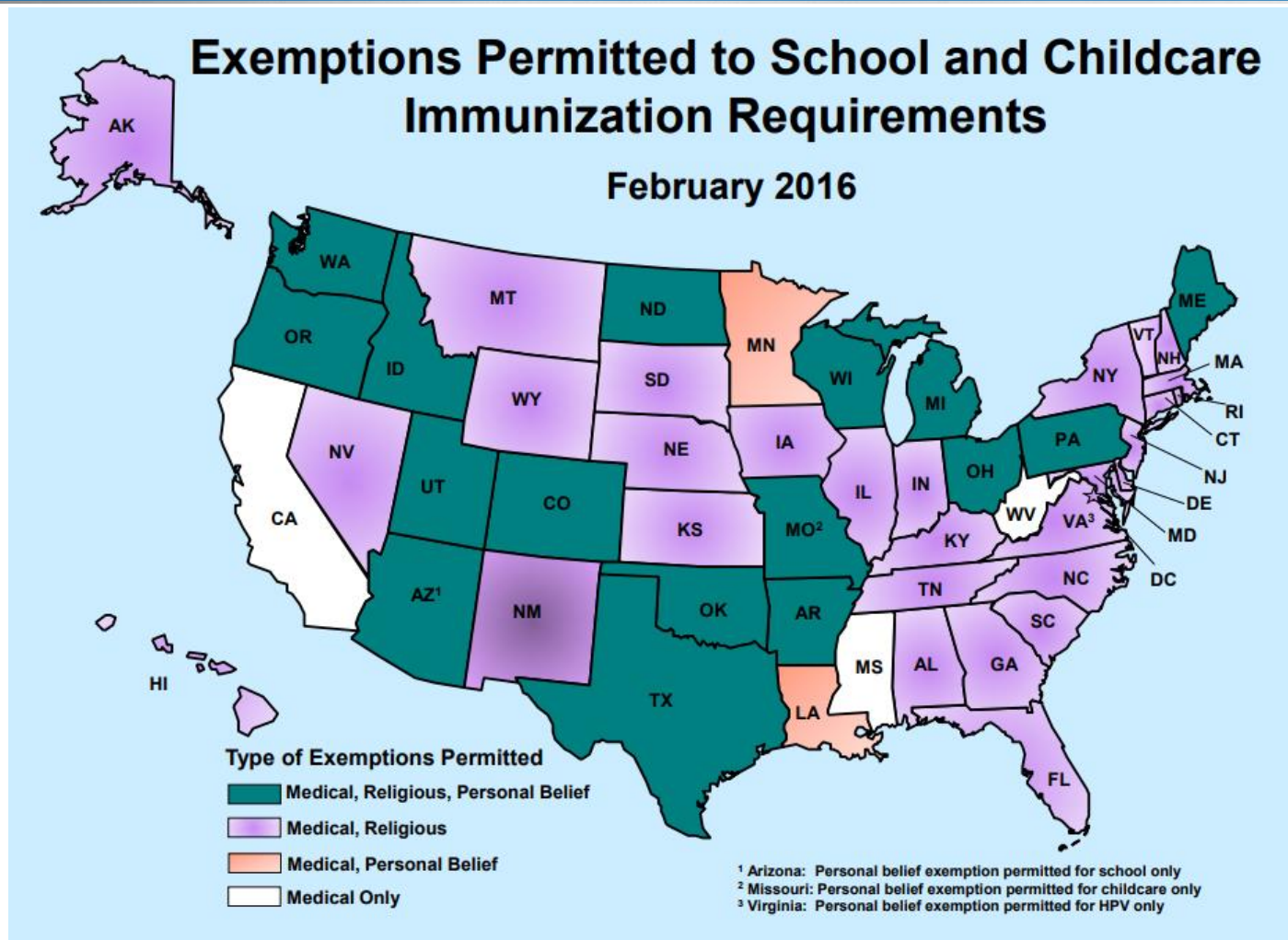
Updated March 1, 2017



MDHHS

Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

Vaccine Waiver Types by State



Michigan had the 6th highest waiver rate for Kindergarteners.

- ◆ In 2013 Michigan had the 4th highest immunization waiver rate in the country for Kindergarten students
 - 26,999 school waivers in Michigan
- ◆ In 2014 Michigan had the 6th highest immunization waiver rate in the country for Kindergarten students
 - 20,544 school waivers in Michigan
- ◆ Many schools had over 20% waiver rates

Administrative Rule Changes

- ◆ Passed on December 11, 2014 and implemented January 1, 2015.
 - Changes to waiver requirement
 - Education at LHD when non-medical exemption is requested
 - Conversation about vaccines
 - Address misinformation about vaccines
 - Required use of the state waiver form
 - Provides additional authority to a LHD Health Officer to exclude an unvaccinated student during an outbreak.

School Immunization Waiver Rules

Each nonmedical exemption filed at the child's school or group program of a child entering a program after December 31, 2014 shall be certified by the local health department that the individual received education on the risks of not receiving the vaccines being waived and the benefits of vaccination to the individual and the community. All waivers shall be submitted using the waiver form prescribed by the department.

Immunization Waiver Education

- ◆ 10 LHDs already required education for nonmedical waivers
- ◆ The waiver rate in those 10 counties was 3.3% compared to the statewide waiver rate of 6.3%
 - Proof of concept
- ◆ Michigan first to require education at a LHD
- ◆ Buy in from Health Officers, Medical Directors, and Nurse Coordinators, schools, and the physician community
- ◆ Implementation of these rules makes the immunization waiver policies consistent across the state

Schools/Childcare Center



Letter to Schools and Childcare Centers

December 18, 2014

Michigan School Administrators and
Licensed Child Care Centers

On December 11, 2014, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) approved changes to the administrative rules (Communicable and reporting for schools and child care centers. The

In brief, the rules will:

- Amend the rule set to reflect the change in the reporting requirement of school children.
- Require education for the parent/guardian when the waiver is certified by the Local Health Department.
- Require the use of the State of Michigan's

The new rules allow the parent/guardian the opportunity to have their concerns and questions about immunizations addressed. It allows scientific-based education and resources to be provided. The new rule requires parents/guardians who want to claim a nonmedical waiver to receive education from a county health department about the benefits of vaccination and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases before claiming the waiver.

Below are some of the reasons the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services implemented these changes;

- Rules modified to reflect the changes to the immunization reporting requirement to the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Immunization rates in Michigan have stagnated.
- Waiver rates have increased in Michigan with waiver rates reported at eight percent.
- Michigan has the fourth highest waiver rate in the nation.

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DCH-1272 (09/14)

Michigan School and Licensed Childcare Immunization Rule for Claiming a Nonmedical Waiver for Immunizations: How do these changes affect schools and childcare centers?

In 2014, Michigan modified the administrative rules that changed how nonmedical waivers for immunizations will be processed for school and childcare programs. This rule will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does this new rule allow to happen?

The new rule allows the parent/guardian the opportunity to have their concerns and questions about immunizations addressed. It allows scientific-based education and resources to be provided.

What does the new rule change?

The new rule requires parents/guardians who want to claim a nonmedical waiver to receive education from a county health department about the benefits of vaccination and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases before claiming the waiver.

Flyer for Schools and Childcare Centers

nonmedical waiver for immunizations to the county health department for immunization waiver education and waiver certification

- Schools and childcare centers will only be able to accept a certified State of Michigan Immunization Waiver Form

Who does this new rule apply to?

The new rule applies to all children who are enrolled in a public or private:

- Licensed childcare, preschool, and Head Start program
- Kindergarten, 7th grade, and any newly enrolled student into the school district

What is considered a certified, nonmedical waiver?

A certified, nonmedical waiver is the State of Michigan Immunization Waiver Form with a revision date of January 1, 2015, which has the county health department stamp and signature of the authorizing agent completing parent/guardian immunization education.

- ◆ Provides information to key questions the school or childcare center may have

Healthcare Providers

Information for Healthcare Providers

Michigan School and Childcare Center Immunization Rules for Claiming Nonmedical or Medical Waivers for Immunizations:

In 2014, Michigan modified the administrative rules that changed how nonmedical waivers for immunizations will be processed for school and childcare programs. This rule will go into effect on January 1, 2015. The new rule does not affect the current process by which the healthcare provider completes the medical waiver.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this rule change important?

Michigan's School and Childcare Center Immunization Rules for Claiming Nonmedical or Medical Waivers for Immunizations

Information for Healthcare Providers

What is the difference between a medical and a nonmedical waiver?

- A medical waiver is a signed statement from the physician that the child cannot receive a certain vaccine due to a true contraindication or precaution to the vaccine or a vaccine component.
- A nonmedical waiver is a parent's/guardian's written statement indicating the religious or philosophical (other) objections to a particular vaccination(s).

What does the new nonmedical waiver rule allow to happen?

Under the old rule, a parent/guardian could fill out a nonmedical waiver at their child's daycare or school. The new rule allows the parent/guardian the opportunity to speak to a health educator about their immunization concerns and questions prior to the waiver being signed. It allows for scientific-based education and resources to be provided.

What does this new rule change?

The new rule requires parents/guardians who want to claim a nonmedical waiver to receive education from a county health department about the benefits of vaccination and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases before claiming the waiver.

Why does the new rule for claiming a nonmedical waiver remove the healthcare provider from issuing the nonmedical waiver to the parent/guardian?

The new rule is not intended to diminish the role of healthcare providers in educating parents and families on the importance of immunization. A strong provider recommendation is recognized as a powerful motivator for parents to comply with immunization recommendations.

The new rule forms a partnership between public health and private healthcare providers in a joint effort to decrease the number of school and daycare waivers in Michigan. The hope is by having providers educate the parent/guardian on true medical contraindications and precautions to vaccination and having the county health department work on the education process for the philosophical and religious waivers, the State of Michigan will begin to see an increase in immunization rates.

- ◆ Provides information regarding claiming a nonmedical and medical waiver
 - Step-by-step guidance on how to complete waivers

Information for Parents/Guardians

New Michigan School and Licensed Childcare Immunization Rule for Claiming a Nonmedical Waiver for Immunizations

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is this rule changing?

Michigan has one of the highest waiver rates as high as 20.7% haven't gotten all their vaccinations. Communities vulnerable to immunizations are one of the even death.

What has the new rule changed?

Parents/guardians who want a discussion about immunization benefits of vaccination and away a parent's/guardian's

What is a nonmedical waiver?

A nonmedical waiver is a philosophical (other) object

Who does this new rule apply to?

The new rule applies to all:

- Licensed childcare,
- Kindergarten, 7th grade

What does certified, nonmedical mean?

Certified, nonmedical waiver (current date: January 1, 2015) authorizing agent (county health department/parent/guardian is on the form)

January 13, 2015

Parent Handouts

- Two documents
 - FAQ provides further details regarding claiming a nonmedical waiver
 - Key Points provides a quick look at how to claim a nonmedical waiver

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Key Points Regarding Claiming a Nonmedical Waiver for Michigan Schools and Licensed Childcare

Michigan recently modified the administrative rules that change how nonmedical waivers for immunizations will be processed for school/childcare programs. The new rule went into effect on January 1, 2015.

With Michigan having one of the highest waiver rates in the country, a proactive approach has been established to help inform parents/guardians about the benefits of immunization and the risks of disease. Some counties in Michigan have waiver rates as high as 20.7% that more than 20% of the students in those counties have not been vaccinated. Schools/childcare centers that have even higher waiver rates. The new rule addresses questions/concerns one may have regarding immunizations.

Key Points Letter

Key Points

- The new rule applies to all children who are enrolled in a public or private:
 - Licensed childcare, preschool, and Head Start programs
 - Kindergarten, 7th grade, and any newly enrolled student into the school district
- The new rule does not take away your right to obtain a nonmedical waiver.
- Nonmedical waivers (religious or philosophical (other) objections) will need to be obtained from a county health department; the schools/childcare centers will not have them.
- Parents/Guardians must follow these steps when requesting a nonmedical waiver:
 - Contact your county health department for an appointment to speak with a health educator.
 - During the visit, there will be an opportunity to have a discussion about immunizations with the county health department staff.
 - If at the end of the visit, you request a nonmedical waiver for your child, you will receive a copy of the current, certified (stamped and signed) State of Michigan Nonmedical Waiver Form.
 - Schools/childcare centers will only accept the current, official State of Michigan form (Current date: January 1, 2015).
 - Forms cannot be altered in any way (such as crossing information out).
 - Take completed, certified waiver form to your child's school or childcare center.
- If your child has a medical reason (a true contraindication or precaution) for not receiving a vaccine, a physician must sign the State of Michigan Medical Contraindication form; this form is available at your doctor's office (not the county health department).
- Based on the public health code, a child without either an up-to-date immunization record, a certified nonmedical waiver form or a physician signed medical waiver form can be excluded from school/childcare.

For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/immunize then click on *Local Health Departments* then click on *Immunization Waiver Information*. There is a list of all the county health departments on this website, along with their addresses and phone numbers.

January 13, 2015

Vaccine Hesitant Parent Concerns

- ◆ We have developed a list of top parent concerns:
 - MMR and Autism
 - Understanding pain
 - Number of doses in a vaccine series
 - Vaccine safety
 - Amount of antigens
 - How vaccines are produced
 - Comparing natural and vaccine immunity
 - Risk of disease
 - Type of vaccine ingredients

Handouts found at: www.michigan.gov/immunize >click on Local Health Departments>click on Immunization Waiver Information

MDHHS Waiver Education Tools

Risk of Disease

Concern: These diseases are basically gone from the United States, so I do not need to vaccinate my child.

General Responses:

- It is true that through vaccination some diseases are no longer common and have been reduced to very low levels in the United States.
 - However, some vaccine-preventable diseases remain common in the United States, like pertussis (whooping cough) and chickenpox.
- If we stop vaccinating, even the few cases we have in the United States could very quickly become tens or hundreds of thousands of cases.
 - We have seen how quickly an outbreak can grow through pertussis.
 - In 2012, we had over 48,000 cases of pertussis reported in the United States.
- Serious vaccine-preventable diseases are still common all over the world and you do not have to be an international traveler to be exposed to the disease.
 - Coming in contact with a person who recently traveled is all that needs to happen. (think about the recent measles outbreaks)
- If the disease comes into the community and your child is not fully vaccinated, he (or she) can become seriously sick.
 - They could also spread it to others who are not vaccinated.
- Even though the risk of disease may be low, you should still be vaccinated for two reasons:
 - The first is to protect you.
 - The second is to protect those around you.

Risk of Disease:

- Vaccine-preventable diseases can be serious, or even deadly.
- Although many of these diseases are rare in this county, they remain a concern in other parts of the world (for example, polio or diphtheria) and these diseases can be brought into the U.S., putting your unvaccinated child at risk.
- Even with advances in health care, the diseases that vaccines prevent can still be very serious – and vaccination is the best way to prevent them.
- Each year we hear about disease outbreaks in undervaccinated communities across the United States.
 - We have seen an increase in pertussis cases in Michigan for several years. Michigan has experienced infant deaths, including a 3 month old little girl in 2012.
 - There were 1,301 cases of pertussis disease reported in Michigan in 2014.
 - We have also seen an increase in measles cases in 2014, with over 600 cases reported in the United States during 2014.
 - This is more cases than in any year since 1996; only 37 cases in 2004.

What each resource contains:

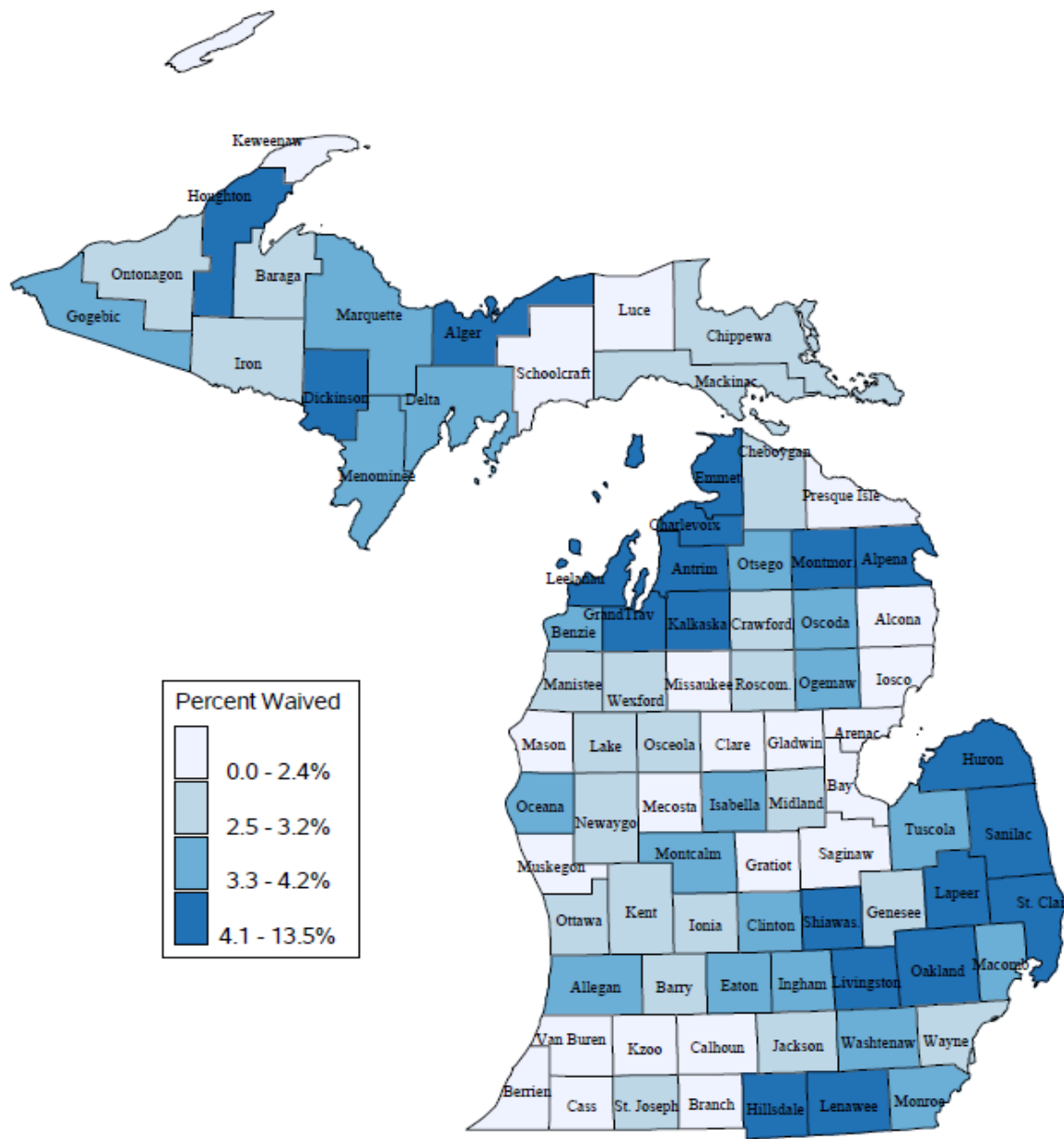
- Concern
- General Responses
- Risk of Disease
- Benefit of Vaccines
- Resources

School and Childcare Immunization Waiver Rates

	2014	2015	2016	Difference from 2015	% Change from 2014
Kindergarten	5.3%	3.6%	3.7%	0.1%	30.2%
7 th Grade	4.8%	3.1%	3.2%	0.1%	33.3%
New Entrants	4.5%	2.8%	2.9%	0.1%	35.6%
Overall	4.8%	3.1%	3.2%	0.1%	33.3%
Childcare	3.3%	2.1%	2.4%	0.3%	27.3%

- ◆ From 2014 to 2015 there were 7,657 fewer waivers reported for schools
- ◆ From 2014 to 2015 there were 1,713 fewer waivers reported for childcare centers
- ◆ Nearly 18,000 children have received all required vaccines since the implementation of the new rule

Percentage of Students with an Immunization Waiver by County, 2016



Overall Immunization Waiver Rates by County, 2016 Data

- Range: 0.0% to 13.5%
- State rate: 3.2%
- Highest waiver rates in the “thumb” area and the Northwest area of the lower peninsula

Data on the MDHHS Website

Overall Summary of the school data

Immunization Status of School Children in Michigan

2016

Summary of Kindergarten Students

Table 1 displays the immunization status of kindergarten children in 2015 and 2016. Overall immunization waivers for kindergarten students slightly increased from 3.62% of children with a waiver in 2015 to 3.66% in 2016. While there was a slight increase, the 2016 waiver rate is a 30.2% decrease from the 2014 waiver rates (prior to implementation of the educational requirement.) The percentage of children with an immunization waiver continues to be higher in private schools (7.58%) than public schools (3.31%) in 2016.

Table 1: Kindergarten Immunization Assessment, 2015-2016.

	2015			2016		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Number of reporting schools	2,183	1,619	564	1,941	1,531	410
Number of students	116,213	106,682	9,531	118,790	109,119	9,671
Number of students complete	108,929	100,478	8,451	111,376	102,738	8,638
% complete	93.73%	94.18%	88.67%	93.76%	94.15%	89.32%
Total immunization waivers	4,203	3,493	710	4,347	3,614	733
% total waivers	3.62%	3.27%	7.45%	3.66%	3.31%	7.58%
Medical waivers	246	207	39	213	188	25
% medical waivers	0.21%	0.19%	0.41%	0.18%	0.17%	0.26%
Religious waivers	748	598	150	872	705	167
% religious waivers	0.64%	0.56%	1.57%	0.73%	0.65%	1.73%
Philosophical waivers	3,209	2,688	521	3,262	2,721	541
% philosophical waivers	2.76%	2.52%	5.47%	2.75%	2.49%	5.59%

Summary of Seventh Grade Students

Table 2 displays the immunization status of 7th graders in 2015 and 2016. The percentage of students with a complete record for the vaccines recommended for school entry was 94.23% overall in 2016. There were more students complete in public schools (94.58%) than private schools (89.10%). Immunization waivers slightly increased from 3.13% in 2015 to 3.19% in 2016.

Waiver Data by School Building

2016 IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS, MICHIGAN

Schools with less than 5 students are omitted. These data are preliminary; schools that have not finalized their report for 2016 are omitted.

COMP = # of student who are complete for the recommended vaccines; PROV = # of students who are provisional or in a dose waiting period;

INCOM = # of students with an incomplete vaccination record; PHIL = philosophical waivers

School Information				Student Information				Number and Type of Waiver							
								TOTAL	MEDICAL	RELIGIOUS	PHIL	n	%	n	%
NAME	DISTRICT	TYPE	COUNTY	Total	COMP	PROV	INCOM	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcona Elementary	Alcona Community Schools	Pub	Alcona	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AuTrain-Onota Public School	AuTrain-Onota Public Schools	Pub	Alger	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
William G Mather Elementary School	Munising Public Schools	Pub	Alger	45	42	0	0	3	6.7	1	2.2	0	0	0	0
Superior Central School	Superior Central Schools	Pub	Alger	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dawson Elementary	Allegan Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	80	79	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Ward Elementary School	Allegan Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	52	50	0	1	1	1.9	0	0	0	0	1	1.9
Pine Trails Elementary School	Allegan Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	51	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Ward Elementary School	Allegan Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	27	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fennville Elementary School	Fennville Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	107	106	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	1	0.9
Blue Star Elementary	Hamilton Community Schools	Pub	Allegan	34	29	0	0	5	14.7	0	0	0	0	5	14.7
Bentheim Elementary School	Hamilton Community Schools	Pub	Allegan	59	57	1	0	1	1.7	0	0	0	0	1	1.7
Sandyview Elementary School	Hamilton Community Schools	Pub	Allegan	23	21	1	0	1	4.3	0	0	0	0	1	4.3
Hamilton Elementary School	Hamilton Community Schools	Pub	Allegan	56	54	0	0	2	3.6	0	0	0	0	2	3.6
Hamilton Middle School	Hamilton Community Schools	Pub	Allegan	19	12	0	0	7	36.8	2	10.5	0	0	5	26.3
St Stanislaus School	Hopkins Public Schools	Priv	Allegan	8	6	0	0	2	25	0	0	1	12.5	1	12.5
Sycamore Elementary School	Hopkins Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	47	46	0	0	1	2.1	1	2.1	0	0	0	0
Hopkins Elementary School	Hopkins Public Schools	Pub	Allegan	61	59	0	1	1	1.6	0	0	1	1.6	0	0

National Trends for Immunization Waivers

- ◆ Recently published immunization waiver rates by state for Kindergarten:
 - Michigan now has the 11th highest waiver rate in the country at 3.7%
 - 6 states saw a decrease in their waiver rates
 - 5 states stayed the same
 - All other states saw an increase in waiver rates
 - The trend is higher resistance to vaccines across the country which is concerning to protecting all individuals

Thank You!