

Vaccines Matter to Smith County



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!

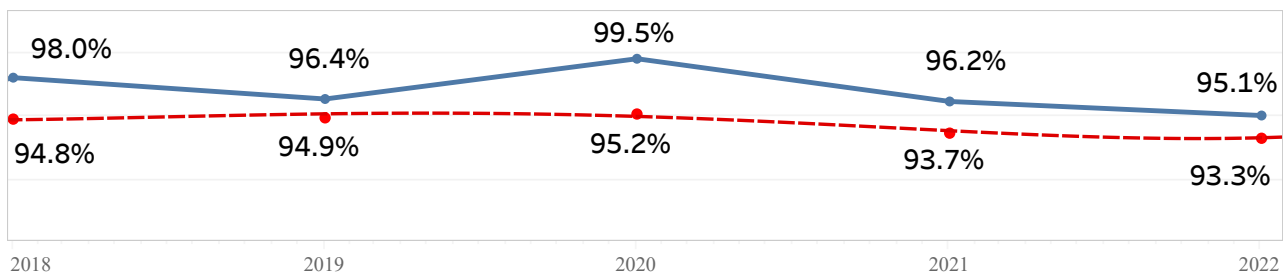
Smith County Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment (2022-23)

Overall, **95.1%** of 2022-2023 Smith County kindergarten students were fully immunized at enrollment. To remain at low risk for a VPD outbreak, this rate should remain above 95%.

Student Status	% (#) of Schools
At least 95% immunized Meets immunization goal	60% (3)
90% to 94.9% immunized Needs improvement	40% (2)
Below 90% immunized Vulnerable to preventable outbreaks	0% (0)

Kindergarten Immunization Trends 2018-2022

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/z2vebhq>
- 2** Vaccines protect children from 16 diseases, including 2 that are known to cause cancer. Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y5qlm546>
- 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/y2h9veee>

COVID-19 Impact on Kindergarten Vaccines

Statewide, only 93.3% of all reported kindergarten students were fully-immunized representing an all-time low and indicating an increased risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

Religious exemptions increased 0.7% to an all time high of 3.0% of all reported kindergarten enrollment.

In 2022-2023, only 27% 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 79,000 students! [Check out the full report, by school.](#)



<https://tinyurl.com/KSurvey23>

Reliable Resources



www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html



www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center



www.healthychildren.org



www.cdc.gov/vaccines



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