

# **BACK TO SCHOOL**

## **RESOURCE GUIDE**

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Prepared by the Kansas Association of Local  
Health Departments

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## PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS GUIDE

Created by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), this guide serves as a resource for health departments to provide and learn about immunizations for school. This guide also provides resources for planning back-to-school campaigns and clinics and serves as a one-stop shop for forms and resources for educating patients and parents.

Health departments can use this guide to prepare for back-to-school immunizations and education for parents, the public, and students. This resource also provides links to other websites with information about back-to-school campaigns.

This guide can be found on KALHD's website at [www.kalhd.org/vaccination-resources-for-health-departments](http://www.kalhd.org/vaccination-resources-for-health-departments).

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## **Kansas school and childcare vaccine requirements and forms**

### **Vaccine Requirements**

[Under K.S.A. 72-6261](#), all local health departments (LHD) are required to carry all required and recommended vaccinations for childcare and school entry in Kansas. In addition, the same statute requires all children enrolled in school and childcare or preschool program are required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

*Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP/Tdap)*

*Hepatitis A*

*Hepatitis B*

*Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)*

*Meningococcal Serogroup ACWY*

*Polio*

*Varicella/Chickenpox*

Along with those diseases, it is recommended that children also be vaccinated against the following:

*Human Papillomavirus*

*Influenza*

These recommendations are updated yearly with guidance from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and are based on recommendations from the ACIP and the CDC. For a full list of recommendations and required dosage, [please visit this page](#).

#### *A note on COVID-19 vaccines*

KDHE has explicitly stated that they will not require a COVID-19 vaccine for children in school and childcare settings for the 2023-2024 school year. This decision is not expected to change even though the ACIP has placed the COVID-19 vaccine on the recommended vaccination list.

### **Forms**

Along with the requirements, KDHE provides LHDs with various forms to complete these requirements including for school nurses, medical exemptions, and required information for parents. Links to those forms and documents are below:

Vaccine Consent Form – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

[Printable Kansas Certificate of Immunizations Form](#)

[Printable KCI Form B Medical Exemptions](#)

[Phased Vaccine Approach for Men ACWY and Hep A](#)

[Order Documents](#)

[List of required VIS documents](#)

[ACIP Full List of Recommended Vaccines](#)

## **Discussing Vaccine Exemptions**

Over the course of back-to-school vaccination campaigns, your LHD may encounter those who have questions about vaccinations and their effectiveness or want to forgo vaccinations all together through exemptions. It is important to be prepared for these conversations, and KALHD has created various resources for LHDs to use to both have these conversations and understand exemptions.

### **Types of Exemptions**

Under Kansas state law, there are two types of vaccine exemptions for school and childcare vaccination requirements including medical and religious exemptions.

**Medical exemptions** typically indicate a severe allergic reaction or immunodeficiency (like Lupus) that can have detrimental health effects on an individual. All medical exemptions are required to use KCI Form B and be signed off by a physician who is registered and has an active license with the board of healing arts. These forms are required to be on file with the school nurse and completed on a yearly basis. As of the 2021-2022 school year, medical exemptions make up about .22% of all exemptions.

**Religious exemptions** are more open ended and do not require a specific form, but a letter from a pastor or religious professional in the state indicating the objection to the vaccination requirement due to religious reasons. These letters are only required to be submitted once throughout a child's school career. As of the 2021-2022 school year, religious exemptions make up about 2.06% of all exemptions.

Kansas does not currently have a philosophical vaccine exemption law.

While both exemptions can have their place, it is important to remember that continued exemptions of vaccination can put not only the child who isn't vaccinated, but other children, at risk of contracting severe vaccine preventable disease.

### **Communicating About Exemptions with Parents and School Professionals**

When discussing vaccine exemptions with school professionals and parents in a clinic and school setting, is important to be kind and understanding of worries around vaccination. In many cases, these parents have heard misinformation about vaccination that is worrisome, and you as a public health professional and nurse can discuss those worries with them.

Voices for Vaccines (VFV) has created resources for health professionals to talk about vaccine exemptions using evidence-based conversation tools that include empathy, active listening, validation and asking open-ended questions. While these tools won't work every time, you will be able to open conversations that may not been previously thought of. You can view the whole list of VFV resources by viewing or downloading the Vaccine Hesitancy Toolkit [here](#).

KALHD has also created a *Building Vaccine Confidence in Kansas* resource guide that includes additional tips on motivational interviewing and spotting misinformation. However, these resources would be appropriate for longer patient visits. You can view and download the guide [here](#).

## **Planning Back to School Events and Clinics**

The CDC has great resources on planning and implementing vaccine clinics in various settings, including for schools. While most LHDs have experience in doing back to school clinics, having resources and strategies can be helpful. In addition to regular vaccine clinics, the CDC offers guidance on COVID-19 clinics. To view a full list of the below resources, you can view the CDC website [here](#).

### **Planning considerations**

- Leadership and clinical staffing
- Location
- Partner coordination, including schools and other private sector partners
- Supplies and materials
- Training for staff including CPR and vaccine storage and handling
- Storage and handling at the clinic and prior to the clinic
- Promotion and communication
- Security (if needed)

### **During the clinic considerations:**

- General operations including clinic wait times, staff identification, and screening
- Prepare and share consent forms and VIS sheets for appropriate vaccines
- Vaccine administration and storage, including lot number, amount, and dosage
- Monitoring of patients (15 minutes is the standard for most vaccines)
- General safe hygiene practices including gloves, hand washing/sanitizer, and vaccine preparation.
- Discard extra vaccine syringes and report all vaccine in KS WebIZ (it's required).

### **Post Clinic Planning and wrap up considerations:**

- Record all vaccinations in KS WebIZ
- Report any suspected adverse events or reactions to VAERS.
- Develop a report for improvements, lessons, and overall feedback from the clinic.

## **Educational Materials for the Public**

Included in this guide are resources local health departments can use in public education campaigns and when talking to schools about back-to-school vaccinations. This section will also give health departments ideas on what to use.

### **Social Media Tools**

- [Vax to School Campaign \(created by Immunity Community Washington/Washington Immunization Coalition\)](#)
- [Catch Up on Routine Vaccinations \(developed by the CDC\)](#)
- [2021 Back to School Week of Action \(Developed by NACCHO\)](#) – COVID-19 focused
- [Let's Rise – Developed by the CDC](#)
- [Be Immune Kansas Social Media Tools](#)

### **Flyers and Print**

- [Doing Homework on Vaccines? – Developed by HHS](#)
- [AAFP Immunizations and Vaccines Information](#)
- [Resources for Parents and Parents to Be – Developed by Vaccinate Your Family](#)
- [Example Media Release \(2015\) – developed by Deschutes County, OR](#)

### **Information to Share with Families and Inform**

- [Vaccine Safety – Developed by Healthy Children and AAP](#)
- [Vaccines on the Go – Developed by CHOP](#)
- [IKC and KAAP Letter to School Nurses and Superintendents](#)
- [COVID-19 Toolkit – from NIC-RIM](#)

### **Interactive Games and Educational Materials for Students**

- [Just the Vax Vaccine Game and Resources – Developed by CHOP](#)
- [Hands on Activities – Developed by the British Society of Immunology](#) (please note spelling differences and or slang words)
- [The Vaccine Quest – Developed by Voices for Vaccines](#)
- [Vaccine Makers Project – Developed by CHOP](#)
- [The Vaccination Game – Developed by the University of Oxford](#) (please note spelling differences)

## **Additional Resources**

[Unity Consortium](#) – provides resources, including social media and education on adolescent immunization

[Healthcare Providers Toolkit – provided by Voices for Vaccines](#)

[Immunize Action Coalition Back to School Resources](#) (Many are older)

[South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Back to School Resources](#)

[Back to School Resources – Provided by County Health Officials of New York](#)

[COVID-19 Back to School Resources – Provided by HHS](#)

[Infection Prevention and You Resources](#)

[Vaccination Education Materials - CHOP](#)

[Article on Improving Vaccine Compliance - P&T Magazine](#)

[Mobile Immunizations Toolkit – Community Immunity Washington](#)

