

Children need vaccines to protect them from 14 serious, even life-threatening diseases. Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. To prevent outbreaks in schools and other places where children congregate, a high percentage of children must be immunized.

Immunization requirements for schools vary by state. Over time, Michigan has implemented laws and rules to ensure that children are adequately immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases:

- 1978: each student, upon entry into kindergarten or into a new school district involving grades 1-12, possess a certificate of immunization at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school.
- 2000: *Public Act 89* mandated an immunization assessment be completed for each sixth grade student.
- 2010: additional vaccine requirements were added.
- 2012: Senate Bills 237, 238, and 239 were passed by the Michigan legislature to move the sixth grade assessment to seventh grade.
- 2014: new educational requirement for Michigan parents opting their children out of getting vaccinated before entering school.

Prior to a child entering or attending school, parents or guardians are required to produce documentation confirming their child has received the school-required immunizations or, in the alternative, their child has received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations and is awaiting receipt of subsequent doses to be administered at appropriate intervals. In the following tables these children are considered “complete.”

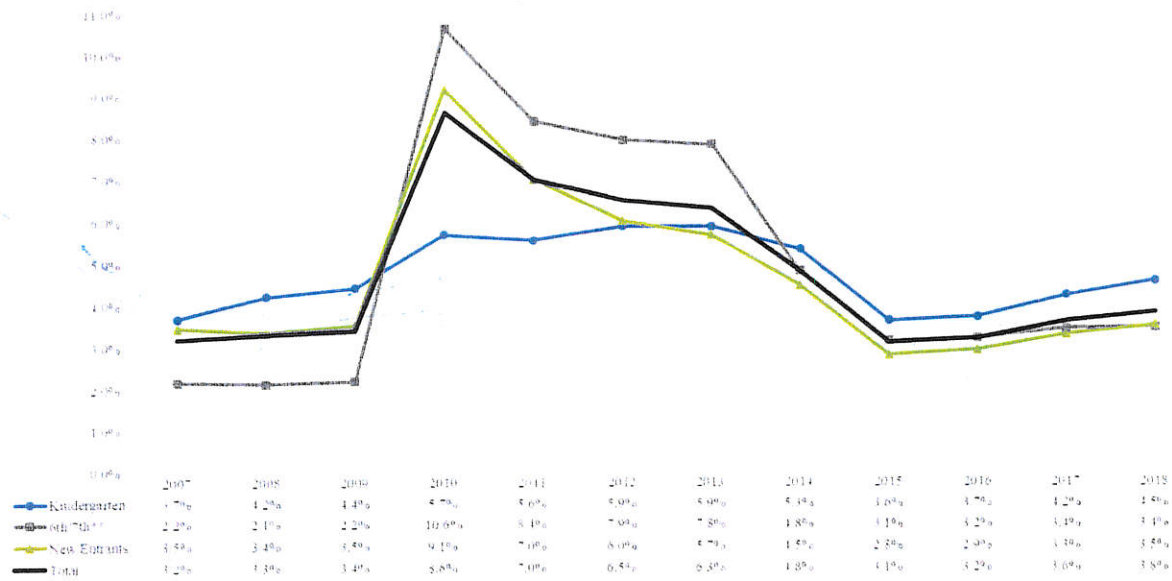
A required vaccine may be waived or delayed if:

- 1) A valid medical contraindication exists precluding the child from receiving the vaccine. A medical waiver must be completed and signed by the child's physician and shall state the contraindication(s), the vaccine(s) involved, and the time period during which the child is precluded from receiving the vaccine(s).
- 2) The parent or guardian holds religious or philosophical beliefs which preclude receipt of a vaccination(s). Any parent/guardian who wants to claim a nonmedical waiver will need to receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from a county health department before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver form through the Local Health Department. An updated waiver must be presented each time the child's immunization status is reported. Additional information on immunization waivers can be found [here](#).

Each year schools are required to report the immunization status of children enrolled in kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup> grade (6<sup>th</sup> grade prior to 2012), and new entrants to the school district. Following the 2014 educational requirement, there was a 35% decrease in the overall waiver rates; from 4.8% in 2014 to 3.1% in 2015. The final 2018 data show an increase in overall waiver rates (3.8%) compared to last year (3.6%). The current waiver rate is 20.8% lower than in 2014, with almost 6,000 fewer waivers each year compared to the over 20,000 waivers reported in schools in 2014. The waiver rates for kindergartners, 7<sup>th</sup> graders and new entrants to a school district are outlined below.

Figure 1 displays the percentage of children receiving immunization waivers over time.

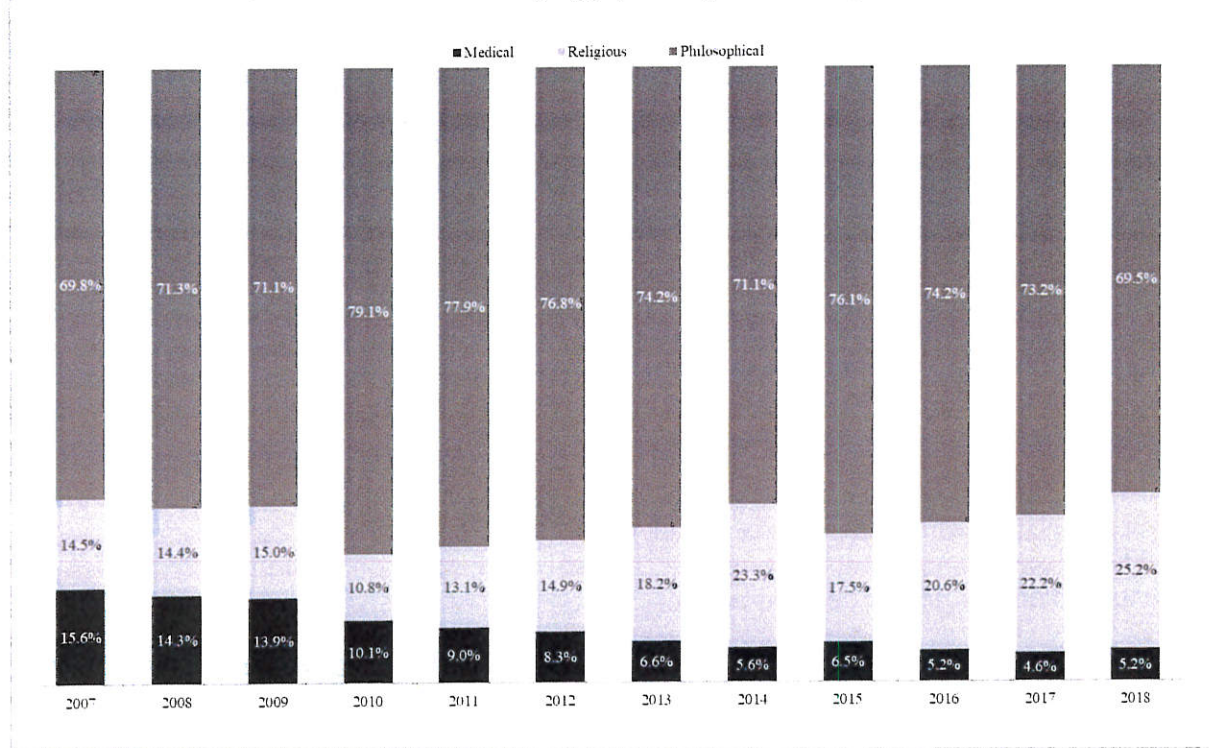
Percentage of Children in Michigan Schools with an Immunization Waiver by Required Reporting Period, 2007-2018



<sup>1</sup> In 2012 a Senate Bill was passed to move the sixth grade assessment to seventh grade.  
<sup>2</sup> Total is the combination of Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and new entrants to the school district.

Figure 2 shows that the majority of immunization waivers in Michigan are philosophical.

Immunization Waivers by Type, Michigan Students, 2007-2018





### Summary of Kindergarten Students

Table 1 displays the immunization status of Michigan's kindergarteners in 2018 in public and private schools. A student is considered "complete" if they have received the school-required immunizations. Overall immunization waivers for kindergarteners increased from 4.2% with a waiver in 2017 to 4.5% in 2018. While there was an increase, the 2018 waiver rate is a 15.1% decrease from the 2014 waiver rates (prior to implementation of the educational requirement.) The percentage of kindergarteners with an immunization waiver continues to be higher in private schools (8.5%) than public schools (4.2%).

Table 1: Kindergarten Immunization Assessment, 2018.

	Public	Private	Total
Number of reporting schools	1,623	548	2,171
Number of students	108,697	9,719	118,416
Number of students complete	101,341	8,637	109,978
% complete	93.2%	88.9%	92.9%
Total immunization waivers	4,556	830	5,386
% total waivers	4.2%	8.5%	4.5%
Medical waivers	258	37	295
% medical waivers	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%
Religious waivers	1050	220	1,270
% religious waivers	1.0%	2.3%	1.1%
Philosophical waivers	3,248	573	3,821
% philosophical waivers	3.0%	5.9%	3.2%

### Summary of Seventh Grade Students

Table 2 displays the immunization status of 7<sup>th</sup> graders in 2018. There were more students complete in public schools (93.2%) than private schools (88.9%). Immunization waivers remained at 3.4% from 2017 to 2018. The 2018 waiver rate is a 29.2% decrease from the 2014 waiver rate.

Table 2: 7th Grade Immunization Assessment, 2018.

	Public	Private	Total
Number of reporting schools	1,106	509	1,615
Number of students	108,800	7,462	116,262
Number of students complete	102,161	6,585	108,746
% complete	93.9%	88.2%	93.5%
Total immunization waivers	3,544	452	3,996
% total waivers	3.3%	6.1%	3.4%
Medical waivers	184	23	207
% medical waivers	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Religious waivers	848	119	967
% religious waivers	0.8%	1.6%	0.8%
Philosophical waivers	2,512	310	2,822
% philosophical waivers	2.3%	4.2%	2.4%

**Summary of New Entrants to the School District**

Table 3 displays the immunization status of new entrants in 2018 (when students enter a new school district, their immunization status is assessed to ensure all current vaccination requirements are met). From 2017 to 2018, the percentage of new entrants with a waiver increased from 3.3% to 3.5%. The current rate is a 22.2% decrease from the 2014 waiver rate. Private schools continue to have higher waiver rates and lower completion rates compared to public schools for new entrants.

Table 3. Immunization Assessment of New School Entrants, 2018.

	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of reporting schools</b>	3,186	650	3,836
<b>Number of students</b>	145,428	11,988	157,416
<b>Number of students complete</b>	137,078	10,760	147,838
<b>% complete</b>	94.3%	89.8%	93.9%
<b>Total immunization waivers</b>	4,755	724	5,479
<b>% total waivers</b>	3.3%	6.0%	3.5%
<b>Medical waivers</b>	244	33	277
<b>% medical waivers</b>	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
<b>Religious waivers</b>	1316	198	1,514
<b>% religious waivers</b>	0.9%	1.7%	1.0%
<b>Philosophical waivers</b>	3,195	493	3,688
<b>% philosophical waivers</b>	2.2%	4.1%	2.3%



# SCHOOLS VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY IN MICHIGAN

Whenever children are brought into group settings, there is a chance for diseases to spread. Students 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 students in your care from other serious diseases is to promote the recommended vaccination schedule at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines). Encourage parents to follow CDC's recommended schedule; by doing so, school requirements will be met.

	All Kindergarteners and 4-6 year old transfer students	All 7th Graders and 7-18 year old transfer students
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)</b>	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
<b>Polio</b>	4 doses 3 doses if dose 3 was given at or after 4 years of age	
<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)*</b>	2 doses at or after 12 months of age	
<b>Hepatitis B*</b>	3 doses	
<b>Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY)</b>	None	1 dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)*</b>	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](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize).

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

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

