



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 4, 2019

**TO:** Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health Leadership, Regional Administrators, Medical  
Directors and Immunization Consultants

**FROM:** Stacy Hall, RN MSN  
Director, Immunization Program

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**Subject:** Annual School Vaccination Rates

The Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) Immunization Program collects information from the LINKS' School Nurse Module for a school vaccination rate report each school year. Data is provided as percentage complete for both non-public and public schools. These immunization rates are assessed for Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. The Kindergarten Assessment includes 4:3:2:3:2 (DTaP, Polio, MMR, HepB, VAR) vaccinations. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessment includes 1:2:2:3:1 (Tdap, MMR, VAR, HepB, MCV4) vaccinations.

This report is submitted to CDC, shared within LDH OPH and with the Department of Education. The chart below reflects the percentage of students who are up-to-date for the recommended vaccination series along with previous results for comparison. The advancement of the reporting date from April to November, which began in school year 2017-2018 continues to negatively impact reporting.

School Year (SY)	Kindergarten		6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
	Non-Public	Public	Non-Public	Public
<b>SY 2014-2015</b>	93.1%	96.6%	84.1%	89.3%
<b>SY 2015-2016</b>	94.4%	96.8%	86.0%	90.3%
<b>SY 2016-2017</b>	92.9%	96.2%	87.2%	87.9%
<b>SY 2017-2018</b>	88.1%	95.2%	82.1%	87.0%
<b>SY 2018-2019</b>	85.2%	95.4%	83.5%	83.2%

As background, the Department of Education reported 13.0% of Kindergarteners were in non-public schools and 87.0% in public schools this school year; 6<sup>th</sup> Graders were 12.8% in non-public schools and 87.2% in public schools. Also reported was a slight increase to 13,708 in home study students for school year 2018-2019 from last year's 13,263 and the previous year's 12,792.

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The non-public and public school exemption rate for Louisiana is 1.2% for SY 2018-2019, an increase from 0.6% in SY 2014-2015. The Louisiana Immunization Program will be evaluating data and working with parishes and individual schools where the exemption rate is elevated.

Parish level information is provided to the OPH Regions and the Louisiana Department of Education to encourage continued excellence or recognize a need for improvement. Letters are mailed to each parish with congratulations for parishes achieving the performance standard of 95% and above. The Immunization Program and Regional staff continue work with individual parishes to improve legislatively mandated reporting. We encourage focus on those parishes in your region that fall below this standard.

Maps of these results along with a ranking of parishes from this report will be made public on the [LDH Immunizations](#) webpage under “Vaccination Coverage Maps” in May. We anticipate being able to share school level data for SY 2019-2020.

November 15th will again be the deadline for the 2019 school immunization assessment reporting as required by [Louisiana Law](#). Please contact the Immunization Program at 504-568-2600 if you have questions.