



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

---

Tony Evers, Governor  
Andrea Palm, Secretary

August 20, 2020

Jeffrey Renk  
Senate Chief Clerk  
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882

Patrick E. Fuller  
Assembly Chief Clerk  
17 West Main Street, Room 401  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Renk and Mr. Fuller:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the 2019 Statewide Immunization Program Report as required by Wis. Stat. ch. 252. The report describes the success of the statewide Immunization Program during calendar year 2019. The statewide Immunization Program produced all required reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Palm".

Andrea Palm  
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



## **Report on the Success of the Statewide Immunization Program during CY 2019**

Wisconsin Stat. § 252.04 (11) directs the Department of Health Services to submit an annual report to the Legislature by July 1 on the success of the statewide Immunization Program. Overall, the percentage of residents receiving influenza immunization increased for each age group in 2019, as well as 2.9% statewide. Other age-specific immunization rates are summarized below.

### **School immunization rates**

Wisconsin Admin. Code DHS ch. 144 requires students to receive a minimum number of immunizations, be in the process of receiving those immunizations, or have a signed waiver in order to attend school and be in compliance with the law. Every fall, schools are required to report the aggregate number of students who met the minimum immunization requirements, are in the process of meeting the requirements, are behind schedule, have a waiver, or have no immunization record or waiver on file.

For the 2019-20 school year, 2,850 schools reported information on 958,446 students.

- During the 2019-20 school year, 91.7% of students met the minimum immunization requirements, a 0.2% decrease from 91.9% the previous year.
- The percentage of students with a waiver (personal conviction, religious, or medical) for one or more immunizations increased from 1.6% during the 1997-98 school year to 5.1% during the 2019-20 school year. The percentage of students with religious and medical waivers has remained relatively constant, but the percentage of students with a personal conviction waiver increased from 1.2% during the 1997-98 school year to 4.4% during 2019-20.
- During the 2019-20 school year, 1.8% of students were behind schedule, similar to results from previous years.
- Only 1.2% of students had waived all immunizations during 2019-20 school year, a 0.1% increase from last school year.

### **Preschool-age children immunization estimates**

Estimates of immunization levels among Wisconsin preschool-age children (19-35 months of age) are determined using the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). A child's primary immunization series includes 4 DTaP; 3 polio; 1 MMR;  $\geq 3$  *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B; 3 hepatitis B; 1 varicella; and 4 pneumococcal conjugate vaccine doses.

The percentage of preschool-age children who completed the primary series for 2019 was 72.1%, similar to results from previous years.

### **Adolescent immunization estimates**

CY19 immunization activities also included those specific to adolescents aged 13 through 18. The adolescent vaccine platform includes HPV, MCV4, and Tdap.

The following represent coverage rates for the adolescent platform using WIR data:

- $\geq 1$  HPV (59.3%), HPV Complete\* (46.0%)
- $\geq 1$  MCV4 (73.0%), MCV4 up to date\*\* (48.6%)
- $\geq 1$  Tdap (79.0%)

Overall, the percentage of adolescents completing the HPV series increased by 3.3% and the percentage of adolescents completing the MCV4 series increased by 2.6%.

### **Vaccine Preventable Disease Response**

#### *Hepatitis A*

The Bureau of Communicable Diseases stood up an incident command team to prepare for a potential hepatitis A outbreak given the large number of states that were part of an ongoing national outbreak among persons who use drugs, persons experiencing homelessness, and men who have sex with men. During 2019, there were 31 cases of hepatitis A in Wisconsin (compared to 14 cases during 2018). Local health departments were encouraged to vaccinate underserved adults (especially against hepatitis A) in community settings through existing or newly developed partnerships.

#### *Measles*

There have been no measles cases in Wisconsin residents since 2014. However, in 2019, the U.S. experienced the largest measles outbreak in 20 years with 1,282 cases, the greatest number since 1992, and as a result of national situational and heightened awareness, over 450 suspect cases throughout the state were investigated and ruled out in Wisconsin. Population immunity of greater than 95% is needed to prevent a measles outbreak. During 2019, MMR coverage for persons aged 24 months was 84.9%.

### **Administrative Rules**

In 2019, DHS continued the administrative rules process for proposed updates to Wis. Admin. Code DHS chs. 144 (Student Immunizations) and 146 (Vaccine-Preventable Diseases). For DHS ch. 146, the proposed rule updated the list of vaccines that the Division of Public Health may make available, free of charge, to eligible individuals through local health departments and tribal health clinics, as well as health care providers throughout the state who participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The administrative rule promulgation process was completed; the updated rule was published with an effective date of April 1, 2020.

Proposed updates to DHS ch. 144, which includes the minimum immunization requirements for entry into Wisconsin schools and child care centers, were also submitted to the legislature in 2019. The proposed modifications to DHS ch. 144 would bring Wisconsin school immunization requirements in line with surrounding midwestern states. In early 2020, two committees in the legislature objected to substantial portions of the proposed updates to DHS ch. 144. The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Review (JCRAR) objected to parts of the rule on May

5, 2020, and introduced a bill to prohibit promulgation of those portions of the rule in the Senate and Assembly. The rule proposal, therefore, has not been promulgated and will require additional legislative action in the next session.

### **Wisconsin Immunization Registry**

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry, also called WIR, is a secure, internet database that includes vaccine records for Wisconsin children and adults. It helps providers track patients who visit multiple clinics, forecasts what immunizations a patient needs, and can run reports that measure a clinic's vaccine rates. It also allows patients, parents, and child guardians to view their vaccine record and keep track of their vaccines.

- **Number of records:** WIR contains more than 9.5 million client records with 103 million associated immunizations in the system. Each day, approximately 14,829 vaccine administration records are added to WIR.
- **Active users:** WIR currently has 16,006 active users. This number includes 2,368 schools and school districts, all of which have the ability to enter data into WIR. The count of active users does not include those who enter the system through an electronic health record (EHR) or electronic medical record (EMR) with a real-time interface with WIR.
- **Utilization:** There were approximately 80,894 average public access attempts per month during 2019, with a peak of 101,879 public access attempts during August 2019.
- **State collaborations on system upgrades:** Sharing of code to upgrade state immunization registries has benefited multiple states using the WIR platform.

\*HPV Complete: Represents either a two- or three-dose series depending on age at vaccine series initiation.

\*\*MCV4 up to date: Includes only clients aged 17-18. Clients are considered up to date if they have received a meningococcal ACWY dose prior to age 16 years and a booster dose at or after 16 years, or if they received one meningococcal ACWY dose at or after age 16.