



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

July 24, 2023

Michael J. Queensland
Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Edward A. Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main Street, Room 401
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Queensland and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the enclosed report as required by Chapter 252, Wisconsin Statutes. The report describes the success of the Statewide Immunization Program during the CY 2022. The Statewide Immunization Program produced all required reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsten L. Johnson".

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



Report on the Success of the Statewide Immunization Program during CY 2022
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Wisconsin Statute § 252.04 (11) directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the success of the statewide immunization program.

School immunization rates

Chapter DHS 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 have 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 2022-23 school year, 2,629 schools reported information on 888,884 students.

- During the 2022-23 school year, 89.9% of students met the minimum immunization requirements, a 1.2% increase from 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 5.4% during the 2022-23 school year.
 - The percentage of students with religious and medical waivers have remained relatively constant, but the percentage of students with a personal conviction waiver increased from 1.2% during the 1997-98 school year to 5.0% during 2022-23.
- During the 2022-23 school year, 2.8% of students were behind schedule. This is a 0.5% decrease from the previous year.
- 1.6% of students had waived all immunizations during the 2022-23 school year, a 0.4% increase from last school year.

Preschool-age children immunization estimates

Estimates of immunization levels among Wisconsin preschool-age children (24 months of age) are determined using the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). A child's primary immunization series includes: 4 DTaP; 3 polio; 1 MMR; ≥ 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 2022 (4:3:1:3:3:1:4) was 69.0%, compared to 68.9% during 2021.

Adolescent immunization estimates

CY22 immunization activities also included those specific to adolescents aged 13 through 18 years. The adolescent vaccine platform includes HPV, MCV4, Tdap, and MenB.

The following represent coverage rates for adolescents using WIR data:

- ≥1 HPV (60.7%) compared to 60.4% during the previous year, HPV Complete* (49.0%) compared to 48.4% during the previous year
- ≥1 MCV4 (71.6%) compared to 71.9% during the previous year, MCV4 up to date** (46.7%) compared to 47.1% during the previous year
- ≥1 Tdap (76.5%) compared to 77.0% during the previous year
- ≥1 MenB (19.6%) compared to 19.4% during the previous year, MenB up to date (10.7%) compared to 10.7% during previous year***

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

**MCV4 up to date: Includes only clients 17-18 years old. Clients are considered up to date (UTD) 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 years.

***MenB up to date: Includes two or more doses of meningococcal B vaccine for clients prior to age 19 years. Meningococcal B vaccine is administered based on clinical decision-making and clients may receive either a two- or three-dose series.

Vaccine-preventable disease response

COVID-19

In 2022, COVID-19 vaccination efforts continued with administration of monovalent vaccine series among young children and bivalent doses across the lifespan to include young children later in the year. A network of over 2,000 providers, including local and tribal health departments, pharmacies, primary care and specialty medical providers, mass vaccinators, and state directed resources (e.g., a state contracted vendor) provided access to vaccination throughout Wisconsin during 2022. Over 1.2 million Wisconsin residents have received the updated COVID-19 vaccine booster.

Influenza

Overall, the percentage of Wisconsin residents receiving influenza immunization was 38% for the 2022-23 season. Vaccination rates decreased when compared to last influenza season. Peak influenza disease activity occurred during December, which represents an earlier peak compared to the two most recent non-pandemic seasons. Influenza disease and hospitalization rates trended toward pre-pandemic activity.

Mpox

A national outbreak of mpox began during the summer months of 2022, with the first Wisconsin case detected on June 30, 2022. Mpox has primarily affected gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, and has disproportionately impacted communities of color. To date, 89 cases of mpox have been reported in Wisconsin. Approximately 4,300 Wisconsin residents have been vaccinated against mpox.

Administrative rules

Proposed updates to DHS 144, which relates to the minimum immunization requirements for entry into Wisconsin schools and childcare centers, were submitted to the legislature in 2019. The proposed modifications to DHS 144 sought to bring Wisconsin school immunization requirements in line with surrounding Midwestern states and with guidance from the CDC.

2021 AB 12 and 2021 SB 35, which sought to prohibit promulgation of portions of the new rule, failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1. Therefore, on February 2, 2023, the proposed changes to DHS 144 were promulgated by DHS. Subsequently, in response to a complaint, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Review (JCRAR) held a public hearing on March 7, 2023, and on March 9, 2023, issued a suspension of parts of the newly promulgated rule. JCRAR then introduced 2023 AB 229 and 2023 SB 228 to prohibit promulgation of several portions of the new rule; the remainder of the new rule was not objected to, and it will be implemented in the upcoming school year.

Wisconsin Immunization Registry

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is an internet database that tracks 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 10.4 million client records with 138.4 million associated immunizations in the system. Each day, approximately 21,390 vaccine administration records are added to WIR.
- **Active users:** WIR currently has 18,694 active users. This number includes 2,934 schools and school districts, all of which can 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 of consumer access:** There was an average of 179,420 instances per month of individuals accessing their (or their children's) immunization record during 2022. There was a peak of 216,902 instances per month of individuals accessing their (or their children's) immunization record during January 2022.
- **Utilization by providers:** On average, 127,000 times a day providers request and receive vaccine recommendations and immunization history to use in assessing their patients' immunization history.
- **State collaborations on system upgrades:** Sharing of code to upgrade state immunization registries has benefited multiple states using the WIR platform.
- **COVID-19 Response:** During 2022, WIR was updated with additional COVID-19 vaccines and revised COVID-19 vaccine schedules, continuing to provide vaccine immunizers the tools needed for accurate COVID-19 immunization assessment.