



School Immunization Requirements

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Objectives



Learn about the MDH school and child care team, and the Southeast Service Cooperative School Nurse Community of Practice.



Understand the immunization requirements and how these requirements protect students.



Learn about resources available to help implement school immunization requirements.

School and Child Care Team at MDH

- Staff

- Ben Christianson – Epidemiologist
- Lisa Harris – School and child care outreach coordinator
- Hanna Ljungman – Epidemiologist
- Hinda Omar – Health educator

- Roles

- Trainings for school nurses.
- Technical assistance during annual reporting.
- Analyze annual report data and respond to data requests.
- Guidance for schools and child cares with measles cases.
- Oversee grants to partner organizations working to improve immunization coverage.



Minnesota Immunization Requirements

MN Immunization Requirements

- Statute 121A.15 and Administrative Rule 4604.
- Requires documentation of immunizations or legal exemptions for all K-12 students.
- All K-12 schools required to complete Annual Immunization Status Report for their students by December 1 each year.



MN Immunization Requirements (cont.)

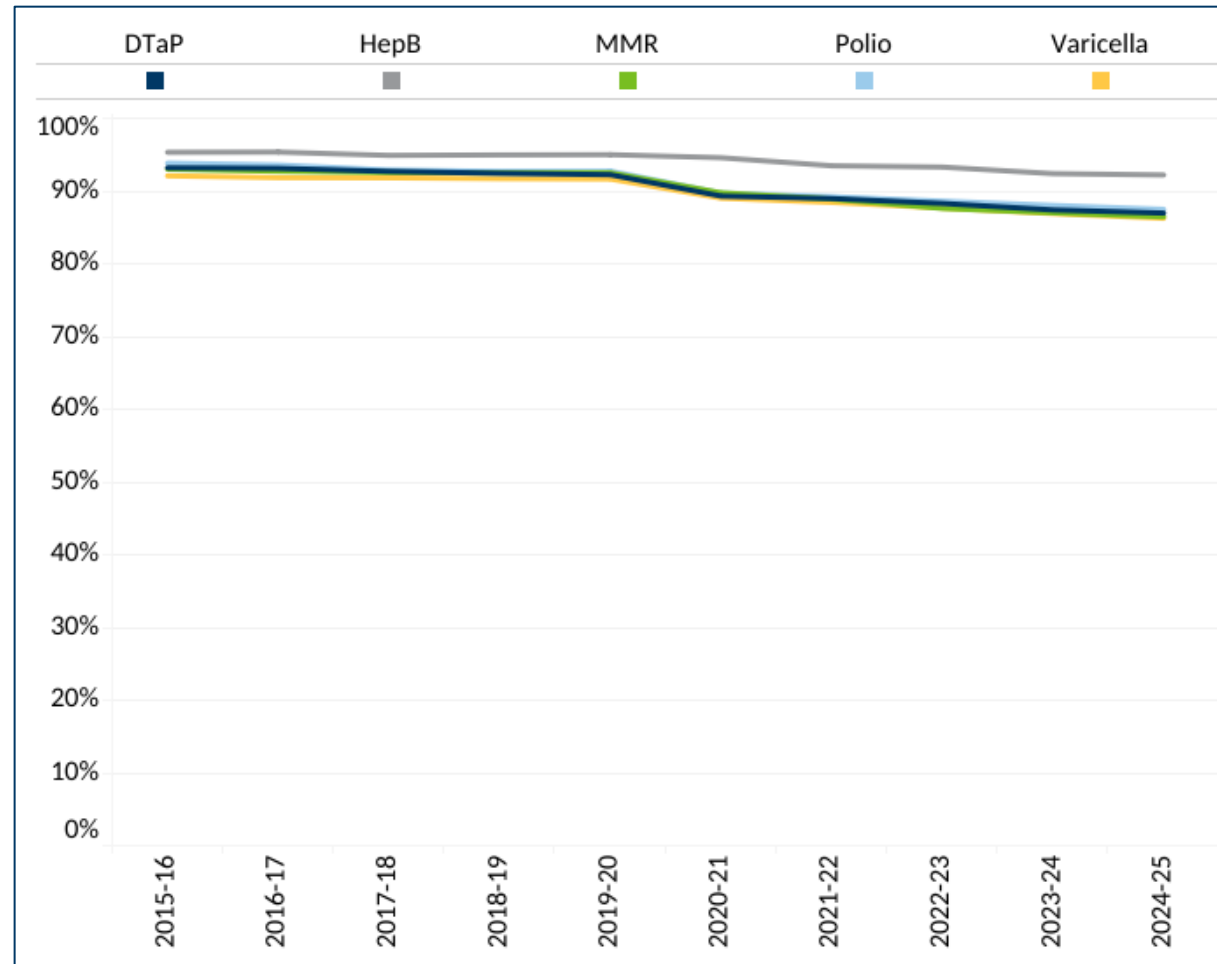
- Kindergarten through sixth grade:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP)
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)

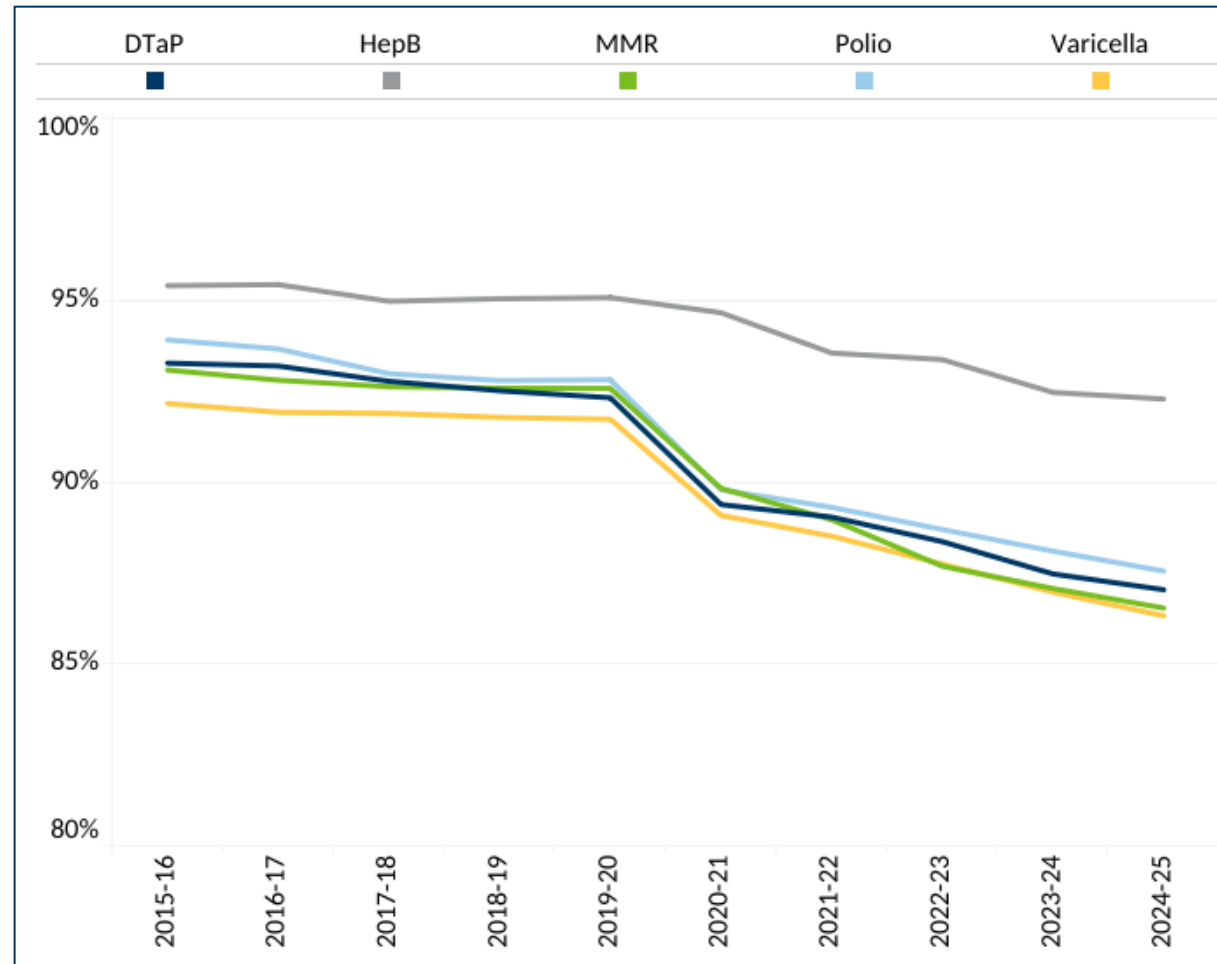
- Seventh through twelfth grade:

- DTaP
- Polio
- MMR
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal ACWY

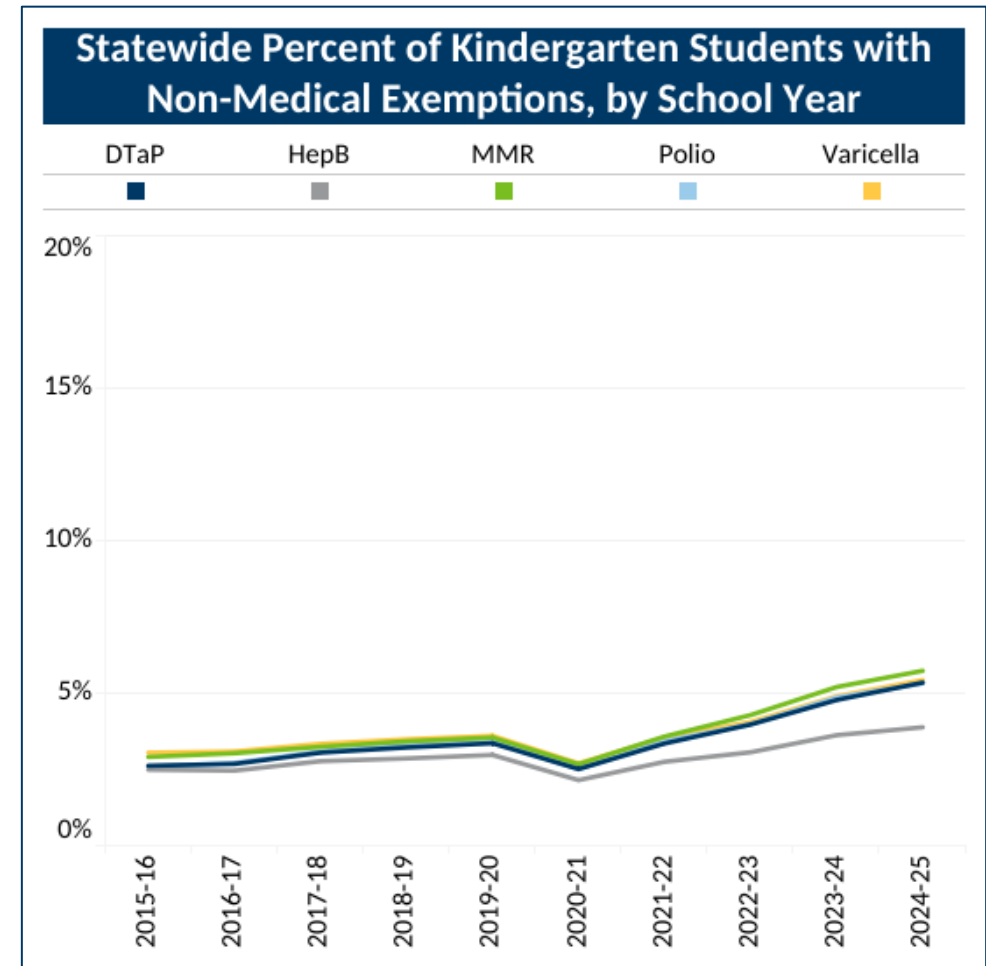
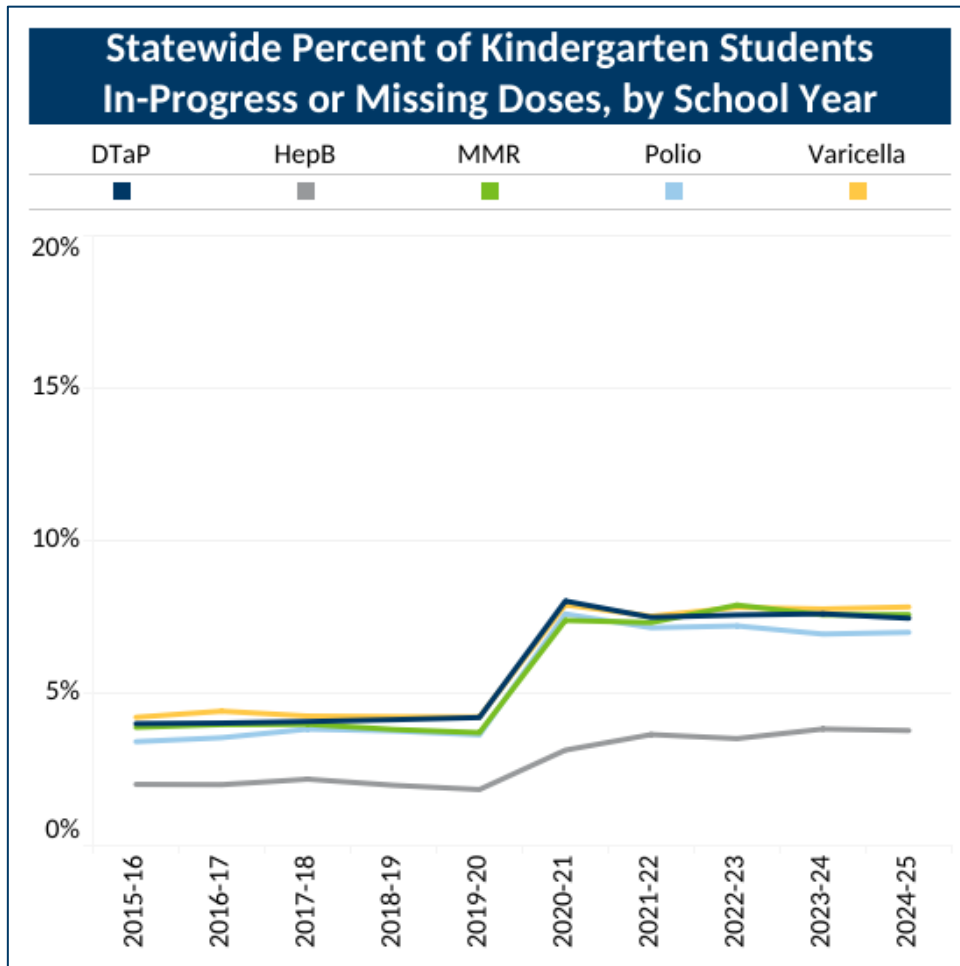
Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students Fully Vaccinated, by School Year



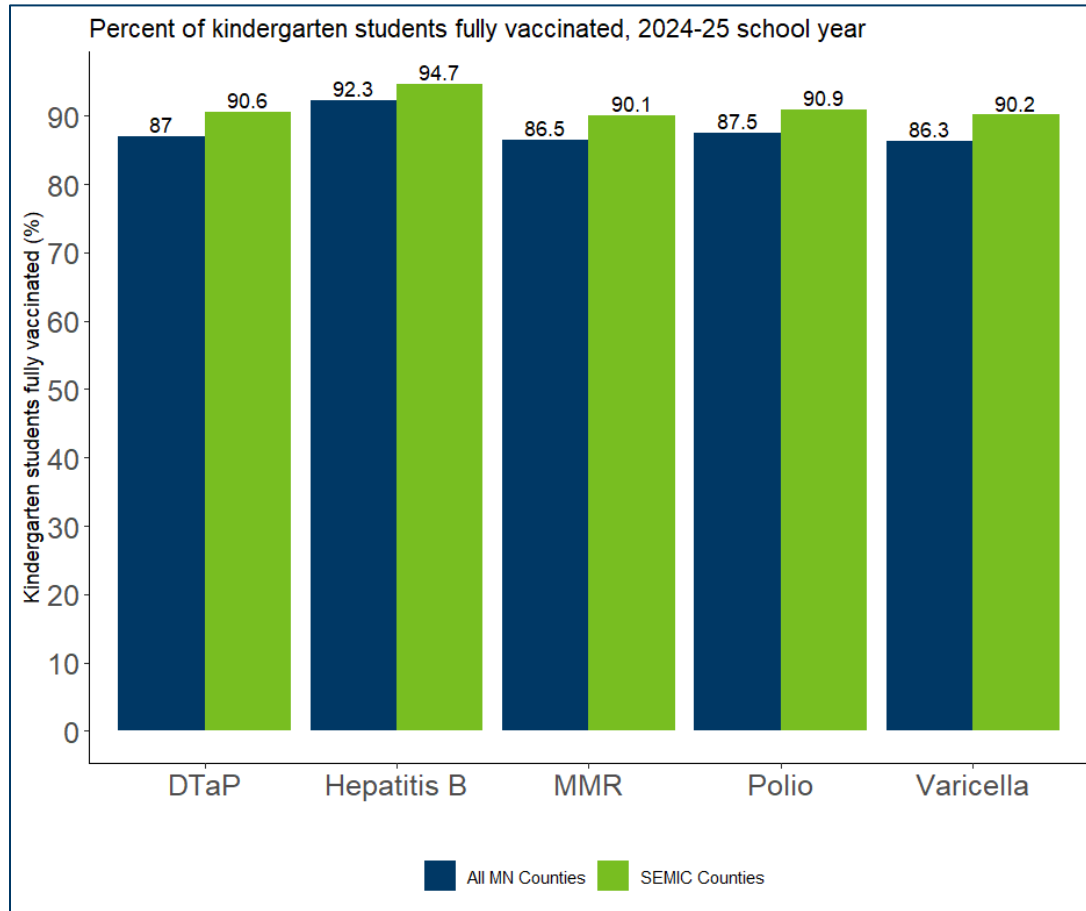
Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students Fully Vaccinated, by School Year (cont.)



Kindergarten Immunization Data, 2016-2025

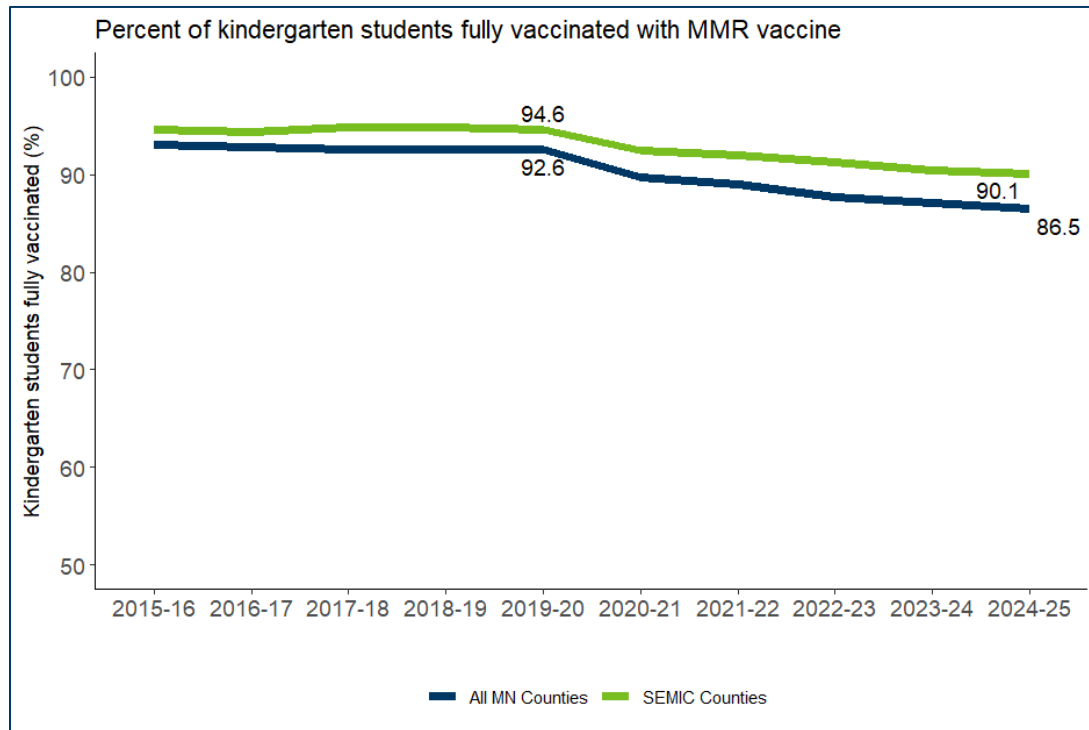


SEMIC Kindergarten Vaccination Rates, 2024-25



- SEMIC counties have higher vaccination coverage.
- 2-4 percentage points higher coverage depending on the vaccine.

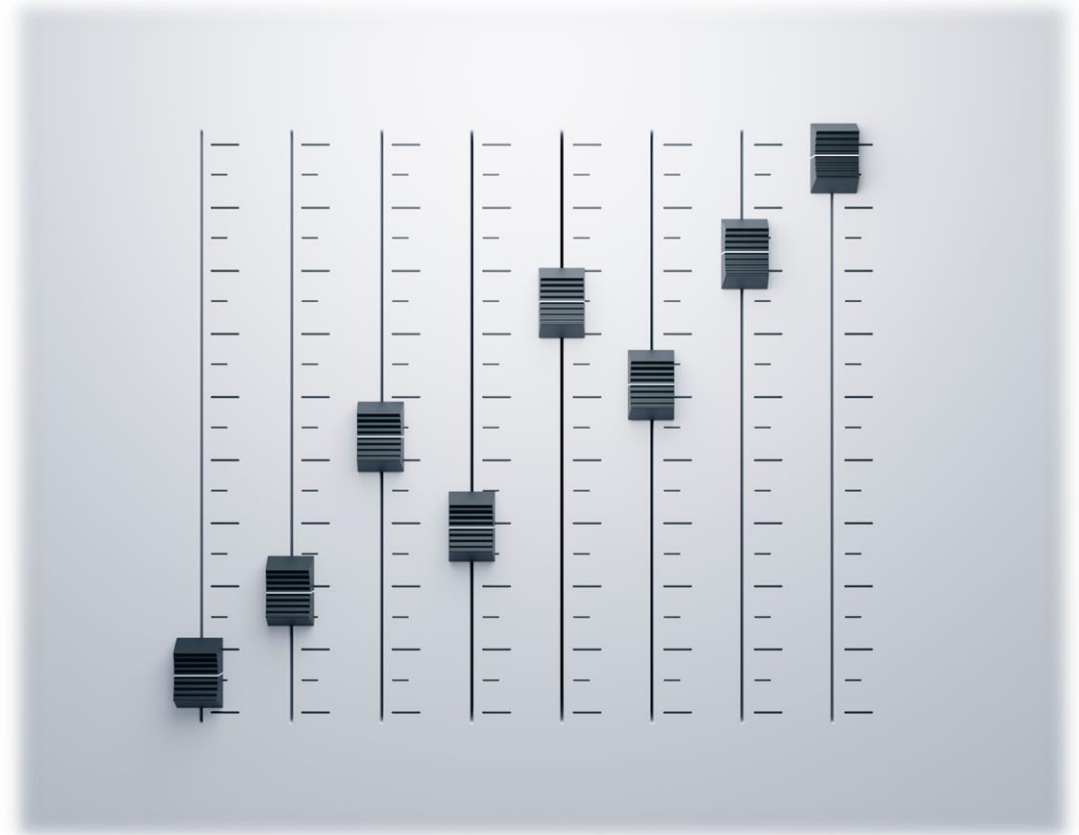
SEMIC kindergarten MMR coverage



- Similar declining trend in fully vaccinated rate.
- Since 2019-20 school year, the MMR fully vaccinated rate has dropped:
 - 4.5 percentage points in SEMIC region.
 - 6 percentage points for all MN counties.
- Similar trend for all vaccines and what we are seeing at the state level.

Pockets of low vaccination coverage

- SEMIC Counties:
 - Several charter and private schools with less than 40% MMR coverage among kindergarten students.
 - District MMR kindergarten coverage ranges from 70-100%.
- [School Immunization Data](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/school/index.html)
(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/school/index.html)



- Ensure families have proper documentation prior to enrollment or before transitioning to the next grade level.
- Use multiple opportunities to communicate with parents (e.g., new student orientation, early childhood screening, school newsletter and websites, etc.).
- Inform parents on how and where to get free or low-cost shots for children in partnership with Local Public Health.
 - [Find MnVFC Locations \(https://vaxmap.web.health.state.mn.us/\)](https://vaxmap.web.health.state.mn.us/)
- Inform families about the risk of being unvaccinated and the possibility of needing to remain out of school if exposed to a vaccine preventable disease.



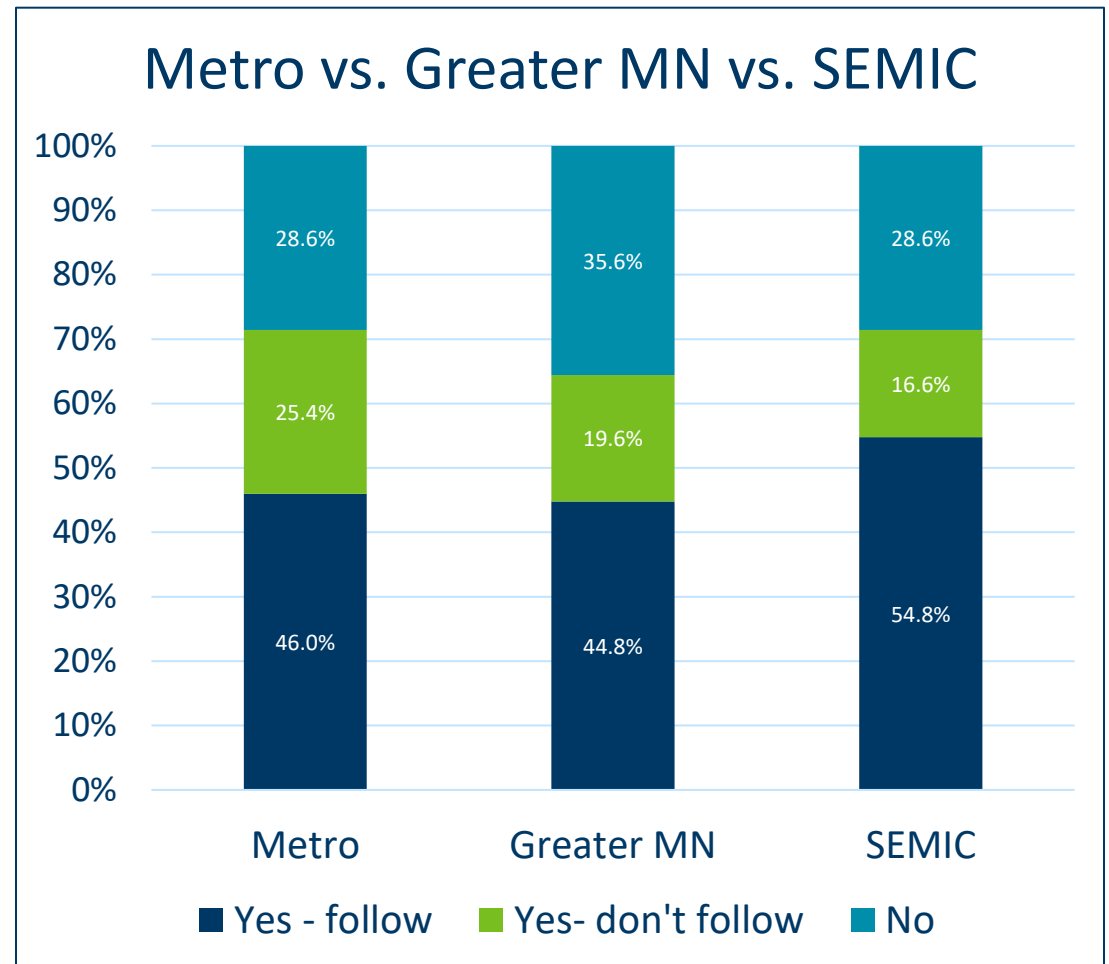
School nurse survey

School nurse survey objectives

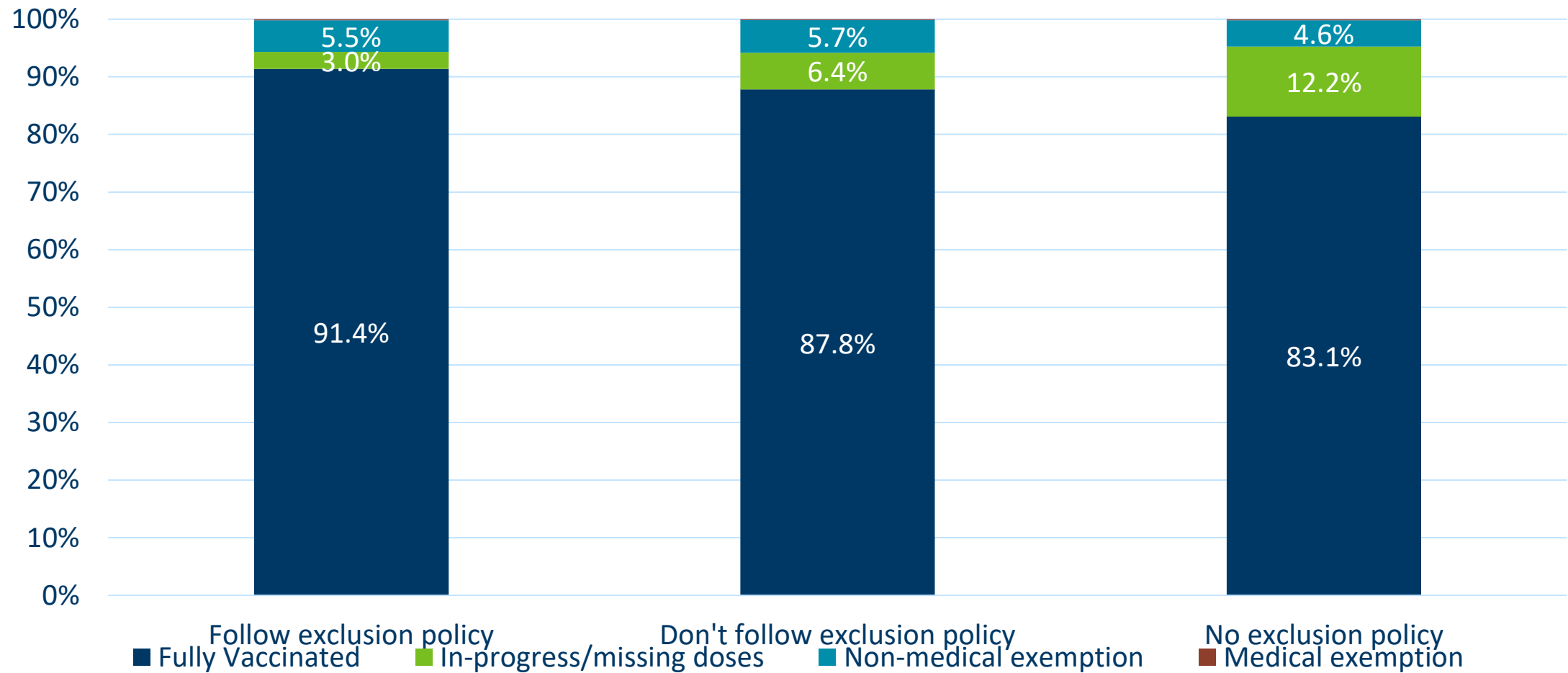
- We created a survey to better understand:
 - How schools and districts implement and enforce the school immunization requirements?
 - What barriers they face to enforce the requirements?
 - What resources they use to implement the requirements?
 - What resources they would find helpful?

Enforcement of immunization requirements

- 99% send reminders to families of non-compliant students.
- 68% of all schools/districts have a policy or procedure to exclude non-compliant students.
 - 33% do not currently operate based on that policy/procedure.



Kindergarten MMR vaccination rates by exclusion policy



Addressing survey findings



Outreach to priority schools with low MMR coverage.



Attended the Minnesota School Board Association and Minnesota Association of School Administrator conferences.



Two-part vaccine advocacy training for school cultural liaisons.



Provided data for school nurses advocating for more enforcement of immunization requirements.

School and child care immunization legislation

- Passed in the 2024 legislative session:
 - MN Statute 121A.15 was updated to allow child care providers the option of creating a policy that prohibits non-medical exemptions.
 - Currently assessing the impact of this legislation on immunization rates.
- Introduced in 2025 legislative session:
 - H.F. 3239 (Freiberg)/S.F. 3439 (Boldon)
 - Proposes removing the option for non-medical exemptions for the MMR vaccine.
 - H.F. 3240 (Freiberg)/S.F. 3438 (Boldon)
 - Would create a program to provide targeted grants to organizations working to address outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunization resources

Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC)

- MIIC has information on immunizations administered in MN.
- Schools can use MIIC to:
 - Look up and print immunization records for children that attend your child care center.
 - Keep a list of children in your care and quickly review/print all their records.
 - Query for immunization records for a large number of students.
- **Note:** your school must have an active Data Use Agreement on file with MIIC to use MIIC.
- Don't have a DUA? Questions about MIIC? Contact health.miichelp@state.mn.us.

Resources for schools

- Bulk Query
 - Query MIIC for immunization records based on a list of their students.
 - Output files can be imported into student information systems.
- Free MIIC Texting Program
 - Text messages are sent to students due or overdue for a vaccine. Messages can be viewed in English, Hmong, Spanish, or Somali.
 - For more information, email: health.miictexting@state.mn.us.
 - Program is currently paused with plans to start again later this year
- Are Your Kids Ready? Minnesota K-12 Immunization Law
 - [Vaccines for Infants, Children, and Adolescents \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/kids.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/kids.html)

Resources for schools (cont.)

- Translating vaccination records:
 - [VaxRef Form \(https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/vaxref\)](https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/vaxref) can be used to translate immunization records to English.
 - [WHO Immunization Data portal - All Data \(https://immunizationdata.who.int/global/?topic=&location=\)](https://immunizationdata.who.int/global/?topic=&location=) offers a tool to lookup the routine vaccination schedule used in different countries throughout the world.
- [School Health Personnel Immunization and Disease Reporting \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/school.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/school.html).

Thank you!

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