

## School Immunization Data Reporting

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### Issue

How do Connecticut schools report student immunization data to the Department of Public Health (DPH)? Do school personnel report such data using paper forms or an electronic database?

### School Immunization Data Reporting Process

According to DPH, prior to 2019, school personnel (typically, school nurses) reported aggregate school immunization data on paper and either faxed or mailed it to the department. DPH staff then entered the information into an electronic database, which performed mathematical checks on the data reported, and followed up with schools that (1) had data flagged for errors or (2) submitted surveys that were illegible.

In 2019, DPH transitioned to a web-based software application to collect school immunization data. School personnel enter the data electronically for their school and the software flags data that is mathematically incorrect (e.g., numbers that do not add up to the total provided). The online application includes detailed directions on how to report the data and once the data is submitted, the respondent is shown his or her school's calculated immunization and exemption rates. The application also includes a mechanism for department staff to email feedback to schools and follow-up on possible data discrepancies.

DPH notes that it only collects aggregate data and not information on individual students. Each school reports the total number of students and the number of students who have medical and religious exemptions. When applicable, schools also report the number of students in kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade who completed and failed to complete the required immunization schedule. (This is because these two grades are when new immunizations are required by state regulation.)

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