



Dear School District Superintendents and School Administrators,

As we enter a new academic year, we want to emphasize the importance of upholding the state's Minimum Immunization Requirements in your school communities. Ensuring that all students meet these requirements is not only a legal obligation but a fundamental component of public health. You are a trusted leader, and supporting these requirements shows your commitment to creating a safe and healthy school community. A community where students can learn and grow with their peers, with less staying home sick and avoiding costly healthcare or hospital stays.

The state deadline for students to have their immunizations and Certificate of Child Examination forms submitted is no later than is **October 15, 2024** unless an earlier date has been established by your school district. For students who are in non-compliance and without proof of immunization or immunity, exclusion policies must be enforced to protect the health and well-being of all students and staff.

Here are some key points to consider as we work together to help students and families meet these requirements:

- 1 Communication with Parents and Guardians:** Ensure that parents and guardians are well-informed about their student's immunization requirements. Clear, consistent communication can help prevent any confusion or delays in meeting these requirements.
- 2 Record Keeping and Reporting:** Implement efficient systems for collecting and verifying immunization records. Timely, accurate record-keeping will help your schools in creating a list of non-immunized students as outlined in Section 665.290. This will also help in identifying any students who may need follow-up.
- 3 Collaboration with Healthcare Providers:** Supporting and working with your school health staff is incredibly important to spread helpful information and will help ensure more students in your school community are immunized. Please reach out to your local pediatrician's or physician's offices and local health departments for education or additional resources for families.
- 4 Exemptions:** There is a criterion for medical exemptions and religious objections outlined by state law. Please ensure that exemptions are properly documented.

By proactively supporting immunization requirements and enforcing deadlines, we can collectively contribute to a safer school environment. We hope you will take these steps to help ensure this year is the healthiest one yet!

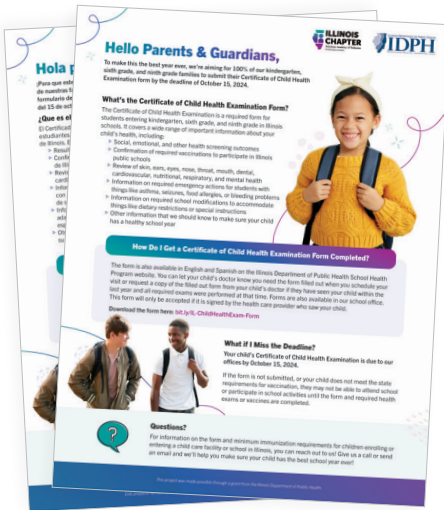
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

# Ensuring a Healthy School Environment for All Students

## Outreach Materials to Support Meeting Immunization Requirements

Help build positive associations with vaccination and encourage a healthy school environment for students, teachers, staff, and families with these easy-to-use outreach materials:



### Outreach Flyer *Available in English and Spanish!*

Make sure your students and their families have the information they need regarding required vaccines for school attendance.

Share important information on:

- ▶ Certificate of Child Health Examination form
- ▶ Deadlines to meet vaccine requirements
- ▶ Grade levels & circumstances that require health examination

### How to Use:

- ▶ Download using the QR code provided
- ▶ Open the editable file and add in your school's due date
- ▶ Upload to your school's portal, print, or email



### Social Media Toolkit *Available in English and Spanish!*

Share engaging, colorful, and positive social media graphics and sample captions to help emphasize the importance of meeting the deadline for this school year. Encourage adherence to requirements with social media posts on:

- ▶ The state deadline to submit records and paperwork\*
- ▶ The importance of children staying healthy so they can participate in school & activities
- ▶ Ways to avoid having to make last minute doctors' appointments
- ▶ How we can keep all students healthy this school year

### How to Use:

- ▶ Open the posting guide and find the post you want to share
- ▶ Locate the corresponding graphic
- ▶ Copy and paste the post content into the social media platform of your choice
- ▶ Upload the corresponding graphic and post!

*\*If your school district has an earlier required due date, be sure to update the Outreach Flyer editable date fields before sharing with your student body and their parents/guardians. Be sure to select the appropriate social media graphics and augment the post copy to reflect your districts due date.*

**Together, we can help every student safely participate and have a healthy school year!**

# Sharing the Positive Message of Good Health

## Leverage Your Social Media

When it comes to healthy school environments, we all have an important role to play. As academic leadership, you are a respected voice among parents, guardians, and community members. To help empower you in encouraging vaccination among your student populations, we've developed a series of posters, flyers, and social media posts that you can easily share with your student body and their families.

### Campaigns Available:



**Healthy Kids Achieve More** – Use these materials to encourage vaccination with positive messaging about the connection between health and overall development.



**Stronger Families** – Additional social media graphics and tailored messaging that encourages parents and guardians to have their children vaccinated for preventable diseases.



**Safe Schools** – Use these materials to remind students and their families that there are many factors that go into creating a safe learning environment, including required vaccinations.



**Vaccine Safety** – Additional social media graphics and tailored messaging that helps to dispel misinformation about vaccine safety using positive language and bold design to draw the eye.



**Getting Back on Track** – Use these materials to encourage vaccination with positive messaging about the connection between health and overall development.



**Get immediate access to all of these resources and more!**

Scan the QR code or visit [illinoisap.org/school-immunization-resources](https://illinoisap.org/school-immunization-resources)





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University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

#### Chief Executive Officer

Jennie A. Pinkwater, MNM  
M: 312/497-1669  
P: 312/733-1026 X 7672  
jpinkwater@illinoisAAP.org  
Illinois Chapter, AAP  
310 S. Peoria Suite 304  
Chicago, IL 60607

# About the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, also known as ICAAP, is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization made up of 2,000 pediatricians in Illinois. As an organization, we work to build stronger communities by improving health care for children in our state.

## About Our Immunization Initiatives

The ICAAP Immunizations Team, in collaboration with local health departments, is committed to helping pediatric professionals, community leaders, school districts, parents and guardians, and all people who support children as they grow in driving better health with recommended vaccinations. Through data-driven outreach campaigns, welcoming and approachable language, and leading education opportunities, we work to build public trust in medicine, dispel misinformation, and ensure that every child has access to life-saving vaccines.

## Why Our Work Together Matters

When children are healthy, they spend more time at school, participating in group activities, and building their character. This leads to healthier lifelong habits that contribute to a more stable career, stronger relationships with others, and sets the foundation for their children to become healthy adults.

*When we work together to create healthy environments where children can thrive, we are supporting stronger, healthier communities for all.*

**Learn more about ICAAP at  
IllinoisAAP.org**

