



Florida Chapter of the
American Academy of Pediatrics
INCORPORATED IN FLORIDA

KEEP DEADLY DISEASES OUT OF FLORIDA SCHOOLS

> Why School Vaccine Requirements Are Essential

- **Stop Deadly Diseases:** Before vaccines, polio paralyzed thousands of U.S. children each year; measles killed 400–500 annually; whooping cough still kills infants when vaccination rates drop. The vaccines required for school prevent over 1,000 child deaths from pneumonia, meningitis, and infection each year.
- **Keep Schools Open:** Disease outbreaks lead to student absences, teacher shortages, and school closures.
- **Protect Families:** Parents miss work when kids are sick, straining family finances.
- **Safeguard Florida's Economy:** Our theme parks, grocery stores, sports arenas, and communities depend on safe public spaces. Outbreaks would put this at risk and would overwhelm our healthcare systems.

> The Reality in Florida

- Just **89% of Florida kindergartners** are fully vaccinated, which is below the 95% needed to prevent outbreaks of diseases like measles.
- Florida already allows **medical and religious exemptions**. Removing requirements would drop rates further and **invite outbreaks of once-eliminated diseases**.

> Are Vaccines Safe? Absolutely.

- **Decades of research** confirm vaccines are safe and effective.
- Serious side effects are **extraordinarily rare**.
- Vaccines **protect children** from hospitalization, disability, and death.
- **Pediatricians trust these vaccines** and vaccinate their own children with them.

> Our Message to Lawmakers

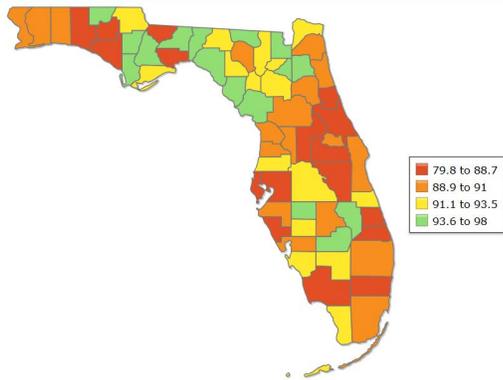
- ✓ **Keep school vaccine requirements in place**
- ✓ **Protect children and families from deadly diseases**
- ✓ **Defend Florida's economy and way of life**

About the Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics:

Through its more than 2,900 members, the Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics promotes the health and welfare of Florida's children and supports pediatricians and pediatric specialists as the best qualified providers of their health care.

Immunization Levels in Kindergarten, Percent of Kindergarten Students Enrolled, 2025*

* Data from Florida Department of Health Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management
<https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer&cid=75>



Florida 2025 Statewide Percentage = 88.7%

County immunization rates include public and private schools. Data are provided by school year. For example, 2025 data represent school year 2024-25.

In Florida, vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, and varicella is required before school enrollment unless a or medical religious exemption is submitted.

The number of religious exemptions has dramatically increased over the last decade, putting many counties well below the "community immunity rate" of 95%.

County	Vaccination Rate %	County	Vaccination Rate %
Alachua	91.9	Lafayette	91.8
Baker	95.4	Lake	86.0
Bay	85.3	Lee	92.4
Bradford	94.9	Leon	93.8
Brevard	90.9	Levy	95.4
Broward	82.2	Liberty	93.6
Calhoun	98.0	Madison	93.0
Charlotte	89.2	Manatee	89.8
Citrus	90.8	Marion	90.8
Clay	93.6	Martin	88.5
Collier	86.3	Monroe	92.0
Columbia	92.9	Nassau	91.8
Miami-Dade	91.0	Okaloosa	90.0
DeSoto	91.1	Okeechobee	93.8
Dixie	93.6	Orange	85.4
Duval	89.9	Osceola	86.3
Escambia	88.9	Palm Beach	89.8
Flagler	88.7	Pasco	91.9
Franklin	91.2	Pinellas	87.3
Gadsden	79.8	Polk	92.5
Gilchrist	92.1	Putnam	90.1
Glades	94.0	St. Johns	90.6
Gulf	94.5	St. Lucie	88.0
Hamilton	97.0	Santa Rosa	91.0
Hardee	95.4	Sarasota	79.9
Hendry	91.2	Seminole	90.0
Hernando	89.0	Sumter	90.6
Highlands	89.8	Suwannee	89.3
Hillsborough	86.0	Taylor	97.1
Holmes	93.6	Union	93.5
Indian River	91.2	Volusia	88.6
Jackson	92.2	Wakulla	86.3
Jefferson	97.8	Walton	88.5
		Washington	88.1