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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Independent School Heads  
FROM: Mark Levine, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health   
Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education   
SUBJECT: 2019-2020 Vermont School Immunization Report  
DATE: May 14, 2020

We would like to congratulate you on the excellent progress your school has made in helping to make sure students are protected from vaccine preventable diseases. Overall in the 2019-2020 school year, **95.1% of Vermont students from kindergarten through 12th grade met all immunization requirements**. This is the highest level reported in Vermont since this data was first collected in 2012. Additionally, the percentage of students who were provisionally enrolled decreased from 2.3% to 1.7% in the past year, demonstrating the effectiveness of your efforts to reduce provisional admittance. Non-medical exemptions were also lower at 3% for all students and 3.5% for those entering kindergarten. Having so many children fully immunized creates the level of “community immunity” that we need to keep diseases from spreading.

Your efforts, together with so many other schools, child cares, and health care providers around Vermont, help keep children safe at a time when the importance of vaccines is more evident than ever. As the world navigates the COVID-19 pandemic, it is encouraging to know that our communities value the important role of immunizations. Now we must sustain these efforts, so this progress is not lost.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty of these times has already led to a decrease in vaccines administered in the last few months. This is concerning, and we cannot afford to backslide. You can help by encouraging your school community to keep children current with vaccines. Remind parents and guardians about the important role vaccines play in protecting their children’s health. Encourage families of newly enrolled students and those who are provisionally enrolled to get their children up to date on all vaccines in the next three months. Remind them that the [school entry requirements](#) will be enforced in the fall to prevent vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

You can find newly released immunization data for all schools posted on the [Health Department’s Vaccination Coverage web page](#).

For more information about immunizations for pre-K and K–12 students, visit the [Health Department’s web page for child care and school providers](#). If you have questions, please contact the Health Department’s Immunization Program at 802-863-7638 or via email at [AHS.VDHIimmunizationProgram@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHIimmunizationProgram@vermont.gov).