

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

1. What are the biggest obstacles in keeping children up-to-date in your school?	N	%
Parents don't bring complete (or any) immunization records to registration	231	90.9%
School administrators don't allow you to suspend children who are not compliant	82	32.3%
Immunizations in foreign languages	48	18.9%
The 14 day 'in-process' procedure	61	24.0%
Staff's lack of knowledge about the immunization schedule	61	24.0%
Not enough health staff at the school	81	31.9%
Other	42	16.5%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Parents who don't respond or can not be contacted
2. Not enough time or staff
3. More parents signing exemptions
4. Parents not getting immunizations for children because of cost or not being able to get to free clinics
5. No enforcement of school immunization law
6. Doctors not following schedule

2. Is the school administrator supportive in enforcing compliance of the Immunization laws?

Yes	177	69.7%
No	77	30.3%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Education time
2. Not a priority
3. Suspended students less likely to return
4. Concerns about losing funding
5. CSAPs

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

3. What parent issues impede the immunization compliance?

Parents don't understand the need for immunizations in schools	131	51.6%
Parents are overwhelmed and have difficulty managing immunizations	129	50.8%
Parents are afraid their children will be harmed by immunizations	97	38.2%
Parents speak a foreign language	103	40.6%
Access to care	121	47.6%
Inability to afford vaccines	107	42.1%
Other	50	19.7%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Not a priority
2. Mobility
3. Do not follow through
4. Expect others to keep updated
5. Time management
6. Lack of knowledge about immunizations

4. Does the in-process system work for you?

Yes	101	39.8%
No	153	60.2%

A. How do you make the in-process system work for you? Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Use phone calls and letter reminders
2. Requires continual follow up with families
3. Usually takes more than the 14 day time frame to get students UTD
4. Only works if principals support suspension
5. Need to have system to track records of in process students
6. Have parents create a plan, then discuss the repercussion of suspension if plan not followed

B. What makes the in-process system difficult at your school? Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Not enough time or staff to do follow-up.
2. Parents don't comply
3. 14 day rule is not enforced by administration/superintendents/principals

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

4. Parents can't get immunizations within 14 day time frame
5. Plan is too confusing for parents

5. What ongoing education would be helpful to you and the school health staff who review children's immunization information?

Review of Colorado's School Immunization Law	89	35.0%
Education about the required immunizations for Colorado Schools	114	44.9%
Education about the diseases that vaccines prevent	78	30.7%
Vaccine safety issues	75	29.5%
Parent education regarding vaccines	166	65.4%
Other	52	20.5%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Educate Administration and School Board and have consequences for schools that don't comply
2. Educate staff – secretaries, registration aids and health aids
3. Send out updates on new vaccines and law changes to school nurses each year
4. Educate parents on importance of vaccination
5. Educate doctors on immunization law.

6. What educational venue would be most helpful to you?

PowerPoint presentation	88	34.6%
A school immunization manual	131	51.6%
Educational site visits	97	38.2%
Other	44	17.3%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Educate parents and the public
2. No need or not sure
3. Educate school administrators and superintendents
4. On-line resources or on a CD
5. Educate school staff and health paras

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

7. What other types of support would be helpful to you?

Education of administrators	133	52.4%
More involvement from your local public health department or nursing	94	37.0%
More involvement from the state health department	63	24.8%
Other	78	30.7%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Allow school nurses to administer vaccinations
2. Educate parents
3. Increase money so nurses have more time to handle immunization issues
4. Enforce immunization laws and have consequences for non-compliant schools
5. Hold more clinics – at schools, district offices and have more at beginning of school
6. Increase staff to help handle immunization issues

8. Do you have a school health advisory council?

Yes	61	24.0%
No	193	76.0%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know or possibly
4. Too busy

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

9. What are some of the challenges you experience in regards to obtaining records from physician's offices and clinics?

The physician's lack of understanding of the HIPPA rule allowing the sharing of records	142	55.9%
Difficulty getting through to offices and clinics	107	42.1%
Physician offices and clinics don't understand the immunization schedule	90	35.4%
Other	78	30.7%

Comments - the responses cited most often were:

1. Getting records from physician's offices
2. Parents and parent record keeping
3. Physicians not following schedule
4. Incorrect information – transcribing mistakes, incomplete or wrong dates

10. Do you enter student immunization records into a computer program?

Yes	222	87.4%
No	30	11.8%

11. Other comments:

1. Require immunization documents before a student can register
2. Not enough time for follow-up
3. Allow nurses to vaccinate at schools
4. Schools can't enforce the state immunization law
5. Need more materials in foreign languages

Type of schools

Elementary	199
Middle	131
Junior	53
Senior	125
Other	67

School Nurse Survey Results, July 2006

Adams	25	Jackson	1	Sedgwick	1
Alamosa	2	Jefferson	32	Teller	2
Arapahoe	48	Kiowa	1	Washington	1
Archuleta	1	Kit Carson	2	Weld	21
Baca	0	Lake	1	Yuma	3
Bent	0	Larimer	8		
Boulder	6	Las Animas	0		
Broomfield	1	Lincoln	0		
Chaffee	3	Logan	2		
Cheyenne	0	Mesa	2		
Clear Creek	1	Mineral	1		
Conejos	1	Moffat	1		
Costilla	0	Montezuma	3		
Crowley	1	Montrose	3		
Custer	1	Morgan	4		
Delta	0	Otero	5		
Denver	32	Ouray	0		
Dolores	0	Park	3		
Douglas	7	Phillips	1		
Eagle	1	Pitkin	1		
Elbert	6	Prowers	4		
El Paso	25	Pueblo	6		
Garfield	2	Rio Blanco	1		
Gilpin	0	Rio Grande	3		
Grand	0	Routt	1		
Gunnison	1	Saguache	1		
Hinsdale	1	San Juan	1		
Huerfano		San Miguel	1		