

SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAMS DURING AND BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



Pediatric outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases can lead to the removal of children from school causing chronic absenteeism, thus disrupting the learning and health of students and educators.

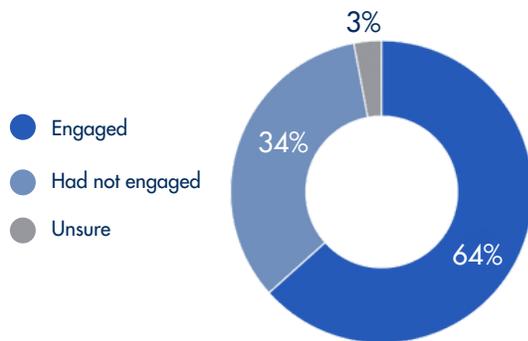


Data suggest that the percentage of children receiving required vaccinations (i.e., the seven-vaccine regimen required for entrance to public education) has decreased by 14% during the pandemic and related school closures. According to the American Academic of Pediatrics, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, children have missed routine well-child care and related vaccinations. If [these] rates decline below levels to maintain herd immunity, dangerous outbreaks of preventable diseases could follow."

Superintendents have a critical role to play in complying with state childhood vaccination requirements, expanding the availability of required childhood vaccinations and enabling vulnerable students the opportunity to be vaccinated in school.

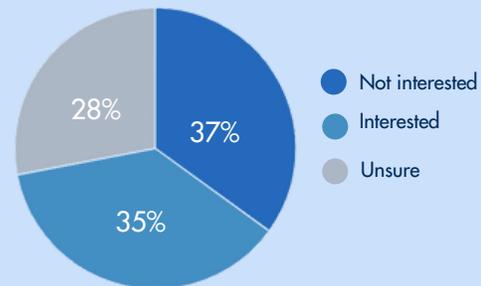
In December 2021, AASA asked school superintendents questions about their efforts to continue hosting COVID-19 clinics as well as offer additional clinics for other vaccine-preventable illnesses prior to, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Districts engaged in prior school-based vaccine efforts such as back-to-school clinics or flu clinics



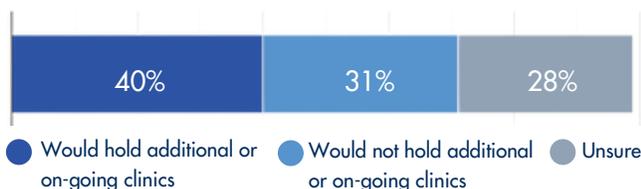
- Rural districts are 3 times more likely than urban districts to indicate they had hosted school-based vaccination clinics previously. The poverty rate of students in the district did not correlate to whether a district hosted a school-based vaccination clinic in the past.

Districts interested in ongoing provision of vaccinations for students beyond COVID-19 vaccination clinics



- 47% of rural and 35% of suburban districts are interested in exploring the ongoing provision of vaccines for students beyond the COVID-19 pandemic compared to 18% of urban districts.

Districts holding additional or on-going COVID-19 clinics



- Urban districts are more likely to hold additional clinics than suburban and rural districts.
- Districts with greater numbers of students in poverty were more likely to indicate they would hold additional COVID-19 clinics.