

As Back-to-School Approaches, Make It a Healthy School Year for Everyone

The feel-good freedom of summer – enjoy it now before the back-to-school flurry begins. Parents and kids everywhere will soon be multitasking through piles of school supplies, new clothes and uniforms, fall sports sign-ups, teacher meet-and-greets, and more. Those are some essentials to get the students ready, but what's needed to keep them healthy?

The answer: Immunization. Vaccines protect your kids, just like you do.

From decades of proven, reliable medical and scientific study, we know vaccines are safe and effective. Every year, vaccines protect millions from illnesses like meningitis, hepatitis, polio, measles, HPV, tetanus, flu, chickenpox, and others.

Despite all this – despite countless volumes of research supporting the safety and benefits of vaccines – some groups in Kansas are spreading anti-vaccine misinformation. Some are convincing parents to claim exemptions that bypass school immunization requirements. As a result, we are seeing immunization rates start to stagnate, even decline, when they should be rising.

Even if your children are not in school or childcare environments, it's still important to vaccinate on time. Not sure which immunizations they need, or you have questions and concerns? Talk to their physician. Like you, primary care providers want your kids to enjoy long and healthy lives, and they value being your partner in that shared goal.

For more information, visit beimmunekansas.org, or scan the QR code below to take a quick online assessment to learn which vaccines and boosters are recommended for various ages. Whether your kids are heading off to kindergarten or college, you'll do everything you can to keep them safe.

With immunization, you'll feel good knowing your kids are well-protected when that first bell rings – and all year long.



Counties across Kansas, just like yours, have reported lower vaccination numbers among children. As a parent looking out for your child, you deserve to know these scientifically proven facts about vaccines:

- **Vaccines are safe – much safer than the dangerous diseases they protect against.**
- **Without vaccines, many diseases like polio will return to our Kansas schools and communities.**
- **Vaccines are made to work in harmony with your body's own natural defenses.**
- **Vaccines are constantly studied and scrutinized, long before and forever after they are approved for use.**
- **Side effects, if any, are typically mild; severe reactions are uncommon. The provider administering the vaccine is well-trained on what to watch for and how to react swiftly in the highly unlikely event an adverse reaction occurs.**
- **Saying no to immunization puts everyone at risk. Vaccines protect individuals, families, and entire communities.**

This information is brought to you by **Be Immune Kansas**, a coalition of primary care physicians and healthcare organizations dedicated to building healthier communities across the state.