

School-based Vaccine Clinics Protect Our Kids and Economy

As a state leader in vaccination efforts, our team at the [Indiana Immunization Coalition](#) regularly hears misinformation about vaccines. Currently, misinformation is spreading concerning immunization clinics held at schools.

Clinics provide essential health services to children and teens throughout the school year. Unfortunately, misinformation about these clinics causes confusion and panic for parents who want to do what is best for their children. I want to dispel some misconceptions about school-based immunization clinics.

Parents and guardians must consent for their child to be vaccinated.

One piece of misinformation we hear the most is that immunization clinics vaccinate children without their parents' or guardians' consent. This is not true. Parents and guardians must consent to each vaccine their child receives, and they can choose to skip certain vaccines if they choose to.

Children's attendance is not mandatory.

Attending these clinics is optional. Children are not required to participate in school-based immunization clinics. If a parent or guardian has not consented to have their child vaccinated, then their child does not attend.

Schools invite vaccination teams.

I have also heard misinformation claiming that vaccine manufacturers push clinics. School-based clinics are a collaboration between schools and the vaccination teams they invite and are usually held at the request of school nurses. These clinics are safe, convenient, and held where children are legally required to be at a time when parents and guardians do not have to take time off work to vaccinate their children.

School-based clinics protect children's health.

School-based clinics provide immunizations that keep kids and their families healthy and safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. Without vaccines, diseases like measles, polio, and whooping cough would infect millions of children yearly. Those children would then expose their family members and at-risk people, including infants and seniors, to potentially fatal diseases.

School-based clinics protect the economy.

Vaccines prevent sickness and severe illness that can lead to hospitalizations and even death. Sick days mean missed work, doctor's visits, and hospitalizations, which means lost income and added strain on our healthcare system. By reducing the spread and severity of vaccine-preventable diseases with routine vaccinations, we protect our children, families, and economy.

The reality is that children are [required to get certain vaccinations](#) to attend school in Indiana. However, parents and guardians can request religious or medical [exemptions](#).

Ultimately, vaccinations keep our children, communities, and economy healthy. These school-based clinics make those vaccines more accessible to working families, breaking down cost and transportation barriers.



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