



# Midwest Immunization Consortium

## Commitment to Vaccine Access

**Introduction** In an era of misinformation and politicized health policies, we commit to evidence-based vaccine science, recommend reliable resources, and invite like-minded organizations and coalitions to join us in our efforts to vaccinate the heartland to ensure the health of our residents across the lifespan.

### **Who We Are**

We are the *Midwest Immunization Consortium*, representing 11 states throughout the Midwest. We uphold that prevention is crucial in healthcare and society, as it significantly reduces healthcare costs, improves overall health, and enhances quality of life. As a consortium, we share best practices and policies to work toward a simple but vital mission: to protect the health of all through evidence-based immunization policies and practices. We strongly support vaccination as a cornerstone of public health, a credible and robust example of the power of scientific research and a vital tool in the fight against preventable diseases.

### **Commitment to Vaccine Science**

We reaffirm our commitment to the following facts:

1. Vaccines are one of the most rigorously tested and closely monitored preventive medical advances we have to protect health.
2. Vaccine recommendations must be rooted in empirical, unbiased and peer reviewed research that is informed by reliable data.
3. Rigorous and thoroughly monitored vaccine safety systems in the U.S. have high standards and represent one of the most advanced systems in the world for assessing vaccine safety.
4. Routine vaccination is necessary to protect our communities and residents from the spread of infectious disease, including those whose immune systems may be impaired and who are unable to respond to vaccination.

5. Routine vaccination is critical to protect people from not only the spread of infectious disease, but also to help prevent seven different cancers.

6. Vaccinations reduce suffering and long-term consequences of disease and reduce disease burden on the already at-capacity healthcare system.

7. Vaccinations benefit students by improving presenteeism, reducing missed days of school due to illness, and improving overall health and wellness, which aids school readiness.

8. Vaccinations benefit employers by reducing employee time missed from work due to illness (for themselves or families), resulting in improved productivity.

Immunizations have eliminated devastating diseases such as smallpox from the world, polio from the Western Hemisphere, and have significantly reduced the impact and harms of many other vaccine-preventable diseases.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that you support policies that sustain and strengthen the eight commitments outlined above to ensure vaccine access for all. Our consortium affirms that evidence-based vaccination policies, practices, and resources continue to be critically important to protect the health of our communities. With vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles and pertussis, increasing in our communities we must act now. We commit to upholding equitable access to vaccines throughout the lifespan of our residents.

## **Reliable Resources**

- [Iowa Immunizes](#)
- [IPHA | The Voice Of Public Health In Illinois - Join Us](#)
- [Home - Immunize South Dakota](#)
- [Advocacy OC4V - Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Indiana Immunization Coalition - Vaccinate Indiana](#)
- [Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota](#)
- [Immunize Wisconsin - Increasing Vaccine Uptake](#)
- [Northeast Wisconsin Immunization Coalition](#)
- [Dane County Immunization Coalition](#)
- [Minnesota Public Health Association - Home](#)
- [Immunization Task Force \(immunizenebraska.org\)](#)
- [Home | IKC](#)
- [Home - I Vaccinate](#)
- [Voices For Vaccines | credible vaccine information for families, from families](#)
- [Vaccine Education Center | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)
- [Vaccinate Your Family](#)
- [Simple Action Steps to Improve Vaccine Confidence & Adoption - Midwest Business Group on Health](#)
- [Home | Immunize.org](#)