

# Common Questions and Concerns for Vaccinations



Immunizations have led to significant decreases in rates of vaccine-preventable diseases and have had an enormous impact on children's health. Vaccines have been the single most impactful achievement in Public Health. However, over the past two decades, hesitancy to vaccinate children has increased drastically. Increasing numbers of people are requesting alternative vaccine schedules, postponing, or outright denying vaccination. The concerns of parents/guardians range from hesitancy of individual vaccines to refusal of all vaccines. Comprehensive vaccine education aids in ensuring herd immunity of Kansas school children.

*K.S.A. 72 – 6261 Kansas Statutes Related to school Requirements and K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines the immunization required for school and early childhood program attendance. Legal Alternatives to school vaccination requirements are found in K.S.A 72-6262.*

- In a 2010 national telephone study of 1500 parents of children ages 6 to 23 months with a response rate of 46%, approximately 3% of respondents refused all vaccines and 19.4% had refused or delayed at least 1 of the recommended childhood vaccines
- In some parts of the country, the use of “personal belief exemptions” from vaccines has increased by over 5% of school-aged children
- The Periodic Survey of Fellows conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 2006 showed that 75% of pediatricians surveyed had encountered parents who refused a vaccine, in 2013, this number increased to 87%
- According to the surveys conducted by the Periodic Survey of Fellows and AAP, the proportion of parents who refused 1 or more vaccines increased from 9.1% to 16.7% between 2006 and 2013
- The Periodic Survey of Fellows and AAP also found that the most common reason parents refused vaccines were that they believed vaccines were unnecessary (this belief was increased from 2006 to 2013) and concerns about vaccinated related autism (this belief decreased from 2006 to 2013)

Source: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/3/e20162146.full#T2>

Are vaccines safe for children?

Yes. Millions of children receive vaccines each year. The US has a vaccine safety system that ensures vaccine safety.

Why are so many doses need for each vaccine?

Getting every dose of each vaccine provides maximum protection. Depending on the vaccine, he/she may need more than one dose to build high enough immunity to prevent disease or boost immunity.

What are the side effects of the vaccines?

Most vaccine side effects are very minor, like soreness, fussiness, or a low-grade fever. These side effects only last a couple of days and are treatable. Serious reactions are very rare. Autism is not a side affect of vaccinations.

Why do vaccines start so early?

Children are vaccinated early because they are susceptible to diseases at a very young age. Young children also have the highest risk of complications that could lead to hospitalization or death.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/for-hcp-tipsheet-hpv.pdf>

For more information, contact Phil Griffin at Phillip.Griffin@ks.gov or 785-296-8893.