



# Strategies for Impactful Vaccine School Events

*Andrea Polkinghorn, BSN, RN, AMB-BC  
President, Immunize South Dakota*

# Vaccines Required for School Entry – Why?

- School vaccination requirements protect children from vaccine preventable diseases which are easily transmissible in the school.
- Schools lend to higher disease transmission is higher.

yahoo/life

The 'triple-demic' of RSV, COVID and flu is causing school closures across the U.S.: 'It's going to be a tough winter'

627

Korin Miller

November 14, 2022 · 4 min read

EDUCATION · Published May 9, 2023 7:42am EDT

## COVID-19 school closures leave lasting impact on kids

SAT scores play different role now for many colleges and universities

# Vaccines Required for School Entry in SD

<u>Vaccine</u>	<b>South Dakota</b> <u>SD DOH</u>
DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	4 or more doses
Tdap	1 dose is required for 6th-grade entry IF the child is 11 years of age.
IPV or OPV	4 or more doses
MMR or MMRV	2 doses
Varicella	2 doses
Meningococcal (MCV4)	1 dose is required for 6th-grade entry IF the child is 11 years of age.
Hib	NOT required
Hepatitis A	NOT required
Hepatitis B	NOT required
HPV	NOT required
Influenza	NOT required
Pneumococcal	NOT required

# School Hesitancy to Host Vaccine Clinics



Pre COVID-19 pandemic



COVID-19 pandemic

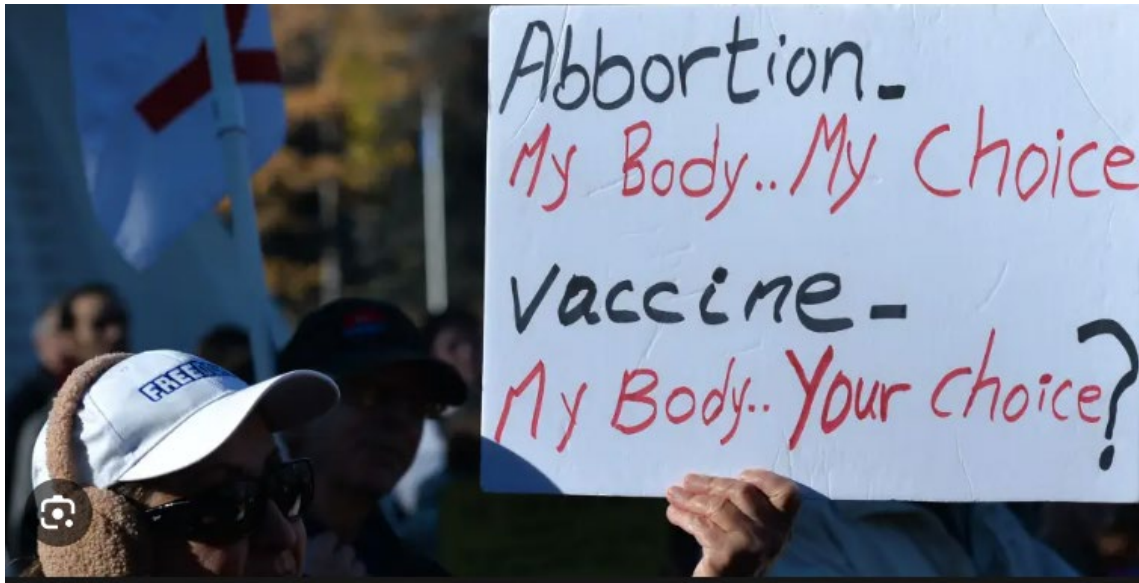
- Upset parents regarding:
- Masking
- Quarantine rules
  - Time away from work
- Vaccine



Post pandemic

- School staff exhausted
- Fear of push back
- Potential lack of understanding regarding consent

# School Vaccine Requirements - My Body, My Choice



# Build Relationship with School Staff

- Start with a conversation and explain benefits for a vaccine clinic
  - Who?
    - School district administrator
    - Principal
    - School nurse
    - Teacher
    - Front desk staff
    - PTO
- Don't let personal assumptions or a preconceived notion that the school won't approve a vaccine clinic stop a conversation from taking place.
- Just like with vaccine hesitant individuals, one 'No' shouldn't prevent additional or future attempts.
- Offer all age-appropriate vaccines; not just what is required for school.

# Why Are School Vaccine Clinics Important

Opportunity to vaccinate many children at one time

Convenience/  
Increase Access

Opportunity to also vaccinate school staff

Successful in reducing the burden of disease in the wider community as well as in the vaccinated population

Effective in achieving high uptake and completion rates

Healthy students =  
Better Learners

Care provided in a familiar environment for younger children

Fewer school days or class time missed

Safety for in-person learning

Increase rates –  
Community Immunity

Disease prevention is better than school closure

Vaccine deserts