

# Diverse Timelines, Prolonged Paths: Variability in Implementation of Adolescent School Entry Requirements Following ACIP Recommendations

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## Background

- School immunization entry requirements are an effective strategy to reduce the spread of preventable diseases.
- Delays between ACIP recommendations and state policy enactment could negatively impact immunization uptake.

## Objective

Evaluate the time period between ACIP national recommendations and corresponding state-level school immunization entry requirements for adolescents.

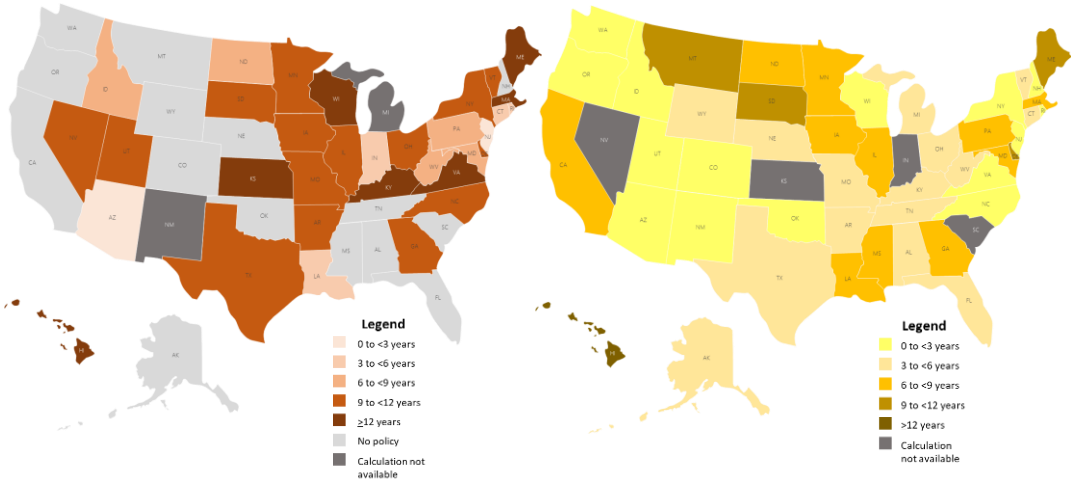
## Methods

- A legal epidemiological review was conducted across 50 states and D.C. to identify school entry requirements for Tdap and MenACWY vaccination.
- Sources reviewed included state statutes, regulations, and state health agency guidance.
- Researchers calculated the period between ACIP recommendation and state policy enactment in Excel.

**ACIP:** Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; **MenACWY:** Meningococcal conjugate vaccination to protect against serogroups A, C, W, and Y; **Tdap:** Vaccination to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.

## Results

### Average Time Between First Routine ACIP Recommendation and State School Immunization Entry Requirements



### MenACWY Vaccination (First Dose)

- Fifty-one jurisdictions enacted school entry requirements for Tdap vaccination, and 36 for MenACWY vaccination.
- There were notable variations in range across Tdap (0.75-15.00), MenACWY first dose (2.83-17.92), and MenACWY second dose (4.75-12.00) immunization policies.

### Tdap Vaccination

## Discussion

- The state patchwork of school immunization entry requirements reveals a trend of diverse timelines between ACIP recommendations and state policy changes as well as a piecemeal approach to immunization policy.
- State-level policy variability can be explained by a combination of political will, public acceptance, and procedural variation.
- Both state-level procedural intricacies and the time between ACIP recommendation and policy enactment impact downstream implementation and vaccine access.

## Conclusion

- School entry requirements must be protected to expand access and uptake and drive vaccine equity.
- At the national level, this means evaluating the implications of these policies on both feasibility and equity when considering ACIP immunization recommendations.
- At the state level, immunization policies should be agile and responsive to evolving ACIP recommendations to realize the full potential of immunization.

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