

# Kansas ranks in bottom half of states for measles vaccination rates

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The U.S. measles outbreak has more than 100 confirmed cases across 14 states. It's hard to believe that this highly infectious – and potentially deadly disease was declared eradicated just 15 years ago. Protect your patients by encouraging parents to vaccinate their children. Kansas Health Institute (KHI) News reports that Kansas fell below the 90 percent threshold for preschooler vaccinations, the baseline goal set by Healthy People 2020, a federal interagency task force.

“A new analysis finds that fewer than 90 percent of preschoolers nationwide have received the recommended vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella. “The [analysis by Trust for America's Health](#), a Washington, D.C.-based health policy organization, looked at MMR vaccination rates in all 50 states and found that Kansas and Missouri ranked in the bottom half: Kansas tied for 39th at 89.4 percent and Missouri tied for 35th at 89.8 percent,” reports KHI News.

“The CDC recommends that all children get two doses of the MMR vaccine, one at 12 to 15 months of age and the other at 4 to 6 years of age. The vaccine is 95 percent to 97 percent effective and considered safe. Side effects are rare.”

Kansas has attempted to boost preschooler immunization rates through programs such as [“Immunize and Win A Prize](#) and the [Immunize Kansas Kids project](#).

For full KHI News article, <http://www.khi.org/news/article/kansas-missouri-rank-in-bottom-half-of-states-for-mmr-vaccination-rates#sthash.711a1KEI.dpuf>