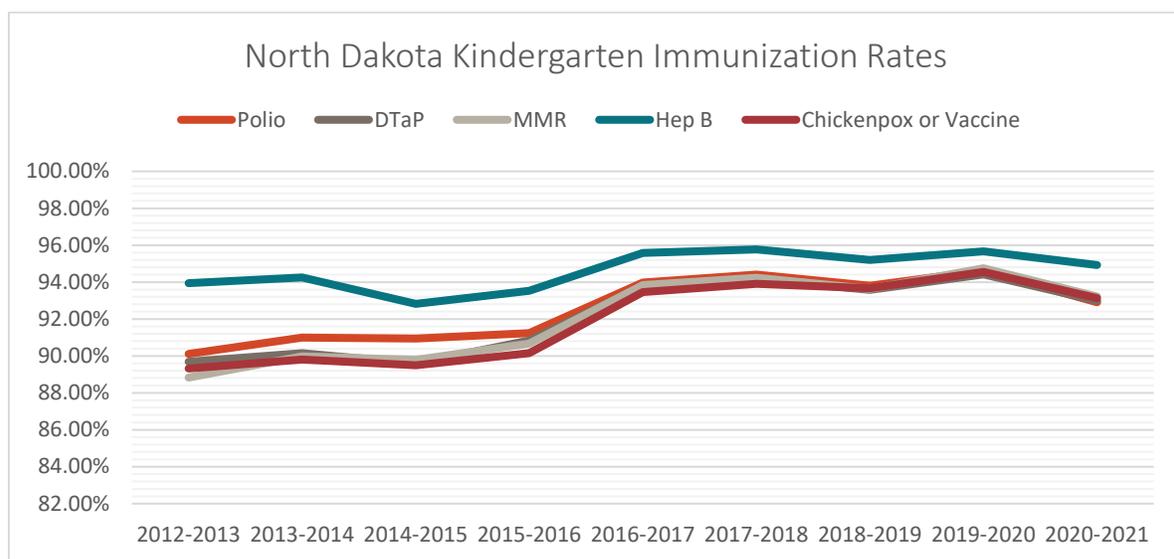


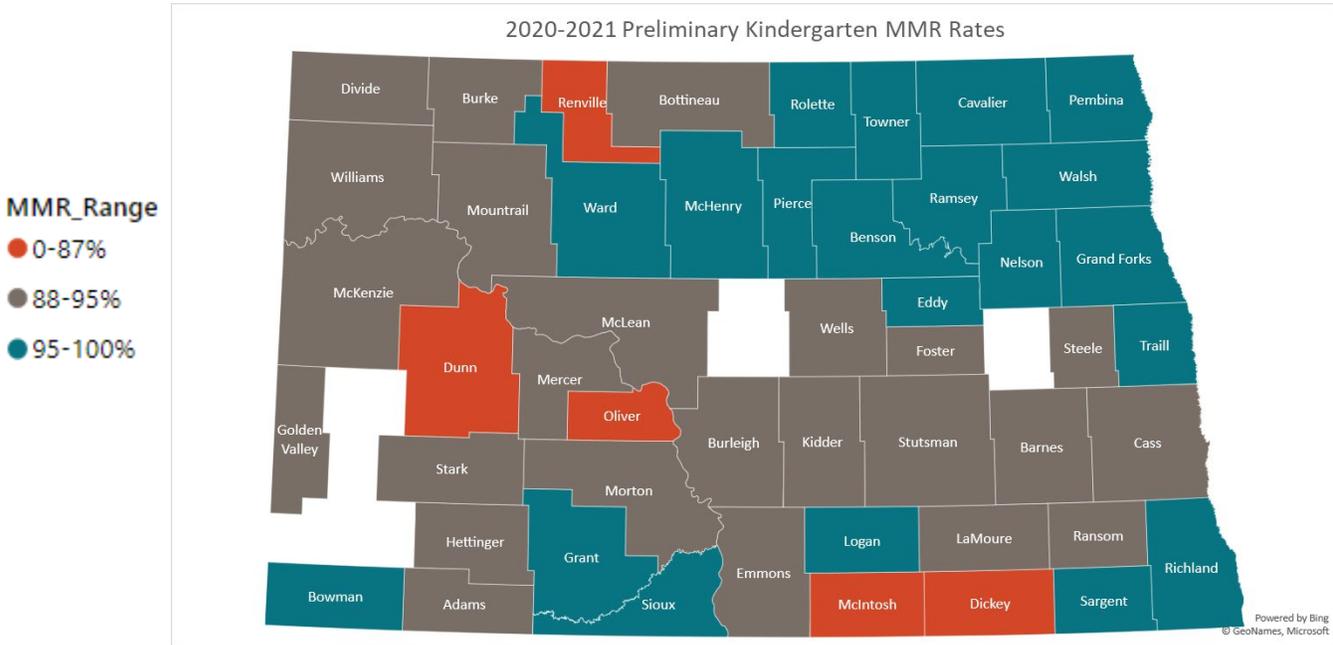
Good afternoon Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Molly Howell and I am the Immunization Director of for the North Dakota Department of Health. I do not have testimony for HB 1469 but wanted to let you know I am available virtually to answer questions if needed. If passed, the North Dakota Department of Health Division of Immunizations could use federal funding to develop the educational module described in HB 1469. Below is information about kindergarten immunization rates in North Dakota. Thank You.

Preliminary school immunization entry rates from this past school year show that 93.22% of kindergarten students were up-to-date for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. This is a decline from the previous school year, where the rate was 94.75%. Likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 48 schools haven't reported school immunization rates (down from last year) and many struggled with enforcement. Please see the chart below for historical kindergarten immunization rates in North Dakota. To achieve community (herd) immunity to measles, which is highly contagious, experts recommend a 95% vaccination rate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, North Dakota ranked 21st in the nation for school MMR rates for the 2019-2020 school year.¹



¹ [SchoolVaxView School Vaccination Coverage | CDC](#)

County MMR coverage rates range from 75% to 100%. School-level MMR rates range from 0% to 100%.



North Dakota kindergarten exemption rates have increased most years. This past school year, personal belief (philosophical, religious) exemption rates were 3.91% (395 children), up from 3.60% the previous year. Since the 2007-2008 school year, a 240% increase in exemptions has been reported in North Dakota. Please see the graph below for historical exemption rates.

