


Year to Date Performance	<b>73%</b>	Performance Assessment	 <b>Yellow</b>
Island Health Target	<b>Greater than or equal to 79%</b>	Performance is outside acceptable range; monitor and take action as appropriate.	

### What do we measure and why?

The 7 Year Immunization Coverage metric is the percentage of children who are fully immunized by their seventh birthday.

A high rate of immunization for a population can help decrease the risk of some childhood diseases and control outbreaks. Immunizations protect children and adults from a number of diseases, some of which can be fatal or result in permanent disabilities.

Monitoring trends in coverage is important in order to identify the potential for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (i.e. when coverage rates drop in a population, there is increased risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks).

This monitoring also guides where public health resources need to be allocated, such as improving access to immunization services or public education efforts.

### What is the target?

Island Health's target for 2022/23 is 79% or higher. This target is based on provincial expectations. The long-term target is 95% or higher.

Higher rates are better.

### How are we doing?

While Island Health did not meet the target for the 2022 calendar year, the immunization rate for 7-year-olds improved greatly in 2022 (from 65% to 73%). The provincial immunization rate for 2022 was 70%.

### What actions are we taking?

A public health recovery project took place over the summer of 2022 where caregivers of children who were behind on immunization were contacted to schedule immunizations. Island Health's 7 Year Childhood Immunization Coverage rate improved significantly as a result of this project.

One of Island Health's priorities for the current year is to increase access to all publicly funded vaccines.