

# Let's Vaccinate: Kentucky's Approach to Building Immunization Confidence Thru Nursing Education

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# What We Were Seeing Across the Field

Declining vaccination rates in some populations



Rapid guidance changes are hard to keep up with



Limited time for in-depth vaccine education in clinic setting



Trusted health care voices feel ill-prepared



Misinformation influences both patients and clinicians

# The Let's Vaccinate Origin Story

- 🛡️ Providers and nurses asked for immunization focused training
- 🛡️ New hires needed support stepping into vaccine roles
- 🛡️ Consistent guidance across the state requested
- 🛡️ Built as a foundational training for the workforce
- 🛡️ Used by local health departments, school nurses and providers

# Let's Vaccinate Core Contents

-  Practical training on pediatric immunization delivery and vaccine-preventable diseases
-  Pediatric schedules and catch-up guidance
-  Best practices for vaccine administration and documentation
-  Post-vaccination care and infection control
-  Communication with parents and caregivers

# Why We Expanded to Nursing Students



Workforce training showed confidence gaps were already present



New graduates had the same foundational questions as working providers



College outreach revealed student uncertainty around vaccines



Preparing students early strengthens the future vaccine workforce

# Let's Vaccinate for Students

- 🛡️ Shifted content to match learner level
- 🛡️ Added practical, skills-based learning
- 🛡️ Integrated storytelling to connect science to real impact
- 🛡️ Introduced motivational interviewing for real conversations
- 🛡️ Refine content based on disease trends and student feedback

# 2025 Student Outreach Snapshot



**Delivered in person training at four technical and community colleges**



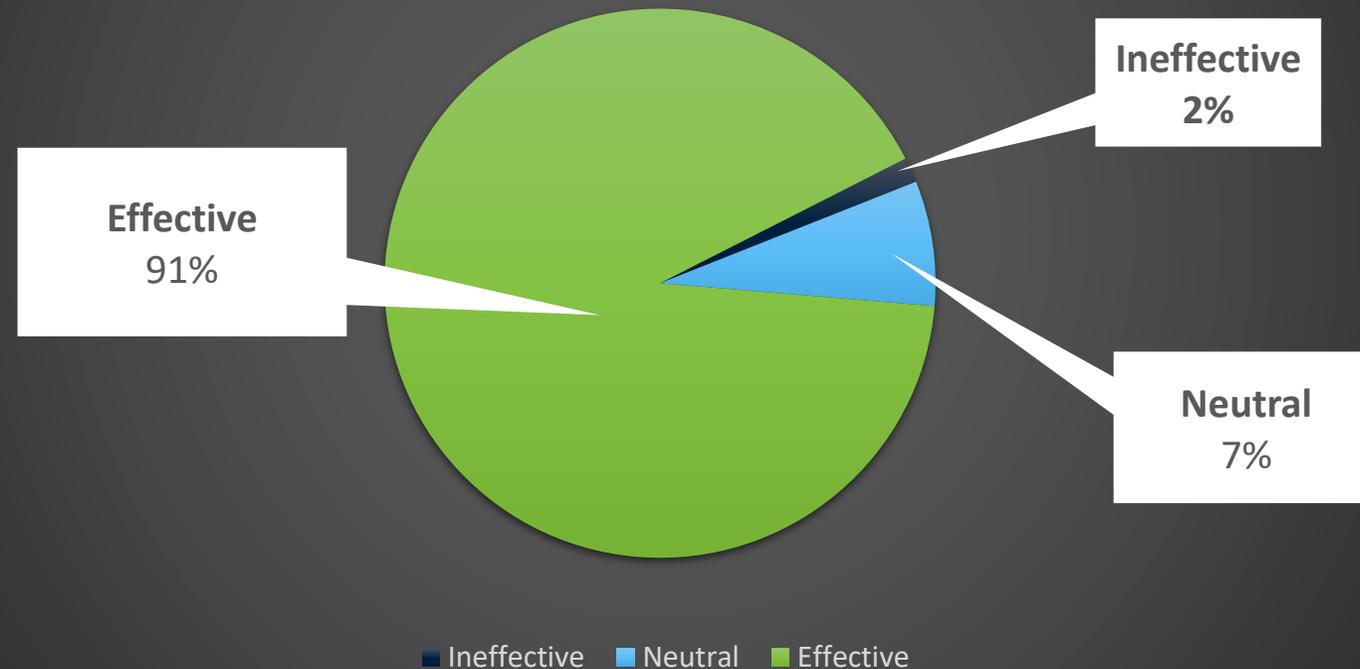
**234 nursing students across Kentucky**



**Utilized pre and post training surveys to gauge vaccine confidence and training effectiveness**

# How Participants Rated the Training

How would you rate the effectiveness of this training in enhancing your Knowledge and skills?



# Post Training Survey Results

- 🛡️ Increased confidence in immunization knowledge
- 🛡️ Improved understanding of immunization schedules and timing
- 🛡️ Reduced uncertainty around vaccine recommendations
- 🛡️ Greater preparedness to support vaccine conversations
- 🛡️ 98% of participants would recommend the training to other nursing students

# What We Learned & Why This Approach Works

- 🛡️ Education is a core vaccine confidence strategy
- 🛡️ Confident nurses deliver stronger recommendations
  - *Early immunization education improves learner confidence and preparedness (Reinders et al., 2023)*
- 🛡️ Nursing education is a public health investment
- 🛡️ Early training strengthens long-term outcomes
  - *Communication skills training improves confidence and clinical performance (Berkhof et al., 2020)*

# Preparing the Next Generation of Clinicians



# Thank you.

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