

# ***Back-to-School Immunizations - Procedures and Policy***

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## **AGENDA**

**September 14, 2023**

- 10:00 a.m.**            **Welcome**  
*Sheena Schmidt, MPP*, Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- 10:05 a.m.**            **School Entry Immunization Selection Process**  
*Ashley Goss*, Deputy Secretary for Public Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- 10:20 a.m.**            A National Comparison  
*Cynthia Snyder, MA*, Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- 10:30 a.m.**            **Other Voices in School Immunizations**  
Moderator: *Cynthia Snyder, MA*, Analyst, Kansas Health Institute  
*Geovannie Gone, LMAC, MPH*, Executive Director, Immunize Kansas Coalition  
*Andrea May, MPH*, Advanced Epidemiologist, KDHE  
*Allison Zaldivar, MPH*, Senior Epidemiologist, KDHE  
*Linda Redding, MPH, RN, NCSN*, Health Services Coordinator, USD 497
- 11:25 a.m.**            **Perspective of Family Physician, Comments and Wrap-up**  
Representative *John Eplee, MD*, family physician and Representative for District 63
- 11:30 a.m.**            **Adjourn**

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

## SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION SELECTION PROCESS



**Ashley Goss** serves as Deputy Secretary for Public Health for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She was appointed to this position in January 2017.

As Deputy Secretary, she oversees over 500 employees who serve Kansans through many different public health roles. Programs include the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories, local and rural health services, disease control and prevention, epidemiology, child care, health promotion programs, oral health and many more. Ashley served as the Incident Commander during KDHE's COVID-19 Pandemic Response. As Incident Commander, she oversaw coordinating operations, logistics, services and deliverables at the state level response to the pandemic.

Prior to state service, Ashley spent 11 years working in a local public health department in Western Kansas. The local-level experience offered her great insight into local concerns and instilled in her the value of community collaboration.

Ashley has a master's degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Health Care Administration, from Ashford University in Iowa. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Management.

Ashley and her husband, Loren, reside in Maple Hill. The couple has four children.

## PANEL DISCUSSION - PROCEDURES AND POLICY



**Geovannie Gone** oversees the development and implementation of the Immunize Kansas Coalition and statewide immunization strategies, new business initiatives, vaccine equity and related objectives. She provides oversight to government grant programs and other enabling services of the corporation. She thrives in finding way to innovate and strategize plans to increase vaccine rates to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases. With over 15 years of health care experience, Gone is a graduate of Fort Hays Graduate School and has a master's degree in public health. She is also a licensed nutritionist, and a licensed addictions counselor. She is the president and founder of "Diversidad Latina" in Western Kansas, an organization that hosts the "Promotoras de Salud" program. She is co-founder of a national coalition called "Latinos Unidos for Vaccines" that addresses national public health concerns of the Latino community.

Gone enjoys serving her state that welcomed her many years ago. Currently she serves as a member of the State of Kansas Nursing Board and for the Kansas Hispanic Latino Commission. Prior to joining IKC she was the Chief Administrative Officer for Genesis Family Health, a federally qualified health center in Western Kansas.



**Andrea May** is an advanced epidemiologist with the Kansas Immunization Program and has served the program since 2019. Andrea graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in biology and Texas A&M University with a master's degree in epidemiology and a master's in public health.

## PANEL DISCUSSION - PROCEDURES AND POLICY (Cont.)



**Allison Zaldivar** is a Senior Epidemiologist with the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response (IDER) Section at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). She has worked in IDER since July 2017. She oversees the vaccine-preventable disease and influenza surveillance programs and directs the Field Epidemiology Services Program. Allison earned a master's of public health degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2017.



**Linda Redding** serves as the Health Services Coordinator for Lawrence Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in public health from the University of Kansas. Linda spent two years of dedicated service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal where she gained a passion for public health service. Her experience extends to both local and state health departments, where she further developed as a public health professional. For the past eight years, Linda has served as a school nurse in Kansas City and Lawrence. Through her dedication to public health and public schools, she strives to make a difference in the lives of those around her and the community she serves.

## PERSPECTIVE OF FAMILY PHYSICIAN - COMMENTS AND WRAP-UP



**John Eplee, MD**, is a dedicated fourth-generation Kansan with a lifelong commitment to serving his state and community. After graduating summa cum laude in pre-medical science from Kansas State University, John pursued a career in medicine. He completed his medical studies at the University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City, developing a passion for family medicine and earning recognition as an outstanding resident. For over four decades, John has been a devoted family physician, founding the Troy Clinic and actively contributing to the Atchison Hospital. He's delivered over 1,600 babies during his career and has played pivotal roles in health care leadership, serving as the Kansas Academy of Family Physician's President and Chairman of the National Committee on Rural Health. Beyond his medical practice, Representative Eplee is a proud parent, grandparent, and active member of the Atchison community as a former school board member and through his participation in the Atchison Rotary Club. John has represented District 63 in the Kansas House of Representatives since 2016.