

## School health program: Vaccination activity in a state school in Mossoró/RN



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### ABSTRACT

Health and education policies aimed at children, adolescents and adults in the Brazilian public school system join forces in the attempt to promote health and comprehensive education, aiming to address the vulnerabilities that threaten the satisfactory development of these social subjects. Thus, the PSE is translated into a strategy of integration between health and education, with a view to shaping citizenship and improving existing public policies in Brazil. This is an experience report on a vaccination activity carried out in a state educational institution in Rio Grande do Norte. The activity was conducted by a nursing team, nursing interns and some Community Health Agents



(CHA), providing the following vaccines: MMR, adult diphtheria and tetanus (dT), Hepatitis B and Influenza. The aim was to promote the availability of up-to-date vaccinations for individuals attending the public school in question. The administration of 80 doses of vaccines was provided, in general, to students and employees of the educational institution, who had pending issues of the respective immunobiologicals on their vaccine cards. Therefore, the importance of this action of the PSE

is reaffirmed by enabling greater approximations with this public, which often ends up distancing themselves from the services offered at the UBS. In addition, the University presents itself as an integration component in the PSE, so that it offers students who are readily qualified to add to the health workforce.

**Keywords:** School Health Services, Primary Health Care, Vaccines.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The School Health Program (PSE) was established in 2007 by Presidential Decree No. 6,286, as an intersectoral health and education policy, based on the principles of comprehensiveness, territoriality and intersectorality. In addition, the PSE proposes to work with actions focused on health care, prevention of risks, diseases and injuries, health promotion and recovery, aiming at collaboration in the integral formation of students, effective in the basic articulation between public schools and Primary Health Care (PHC), through the Basic Health Units (UBS) (Brasil, 2023; Rumor *et al.*, 2022).

From this perspective, health and education policies aimed at children, adolescents and adults in the Brazilian public school system join forces in the attempt to promote health and comprehensive education, aiming to address the vulnerabilities that threaten the satisfactory development of these social subjects. Thus, the PSE consists of a strategy of integration between health and education, with a view to shaping citizenship and improving existing public policies in Brazil (Brasil, 2023; Brazil, 2018).

The PSE is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the health of students, among which actions related to the vaccination status of students stand out. In this sense, it should be noted that the National Immunization Program (PNI), which emerged in 1973, has always been essential for the control of vaccine-preventable pathologies, reflecting significant advances in the field of health in Brazil (Domingues *et al.*, 2019; Viegas *et al.*, 2019).

Currently, the Unified Health System (SUS) provides the National Vaccination Calendar, offering a total of 20 vaccines responsible for protection from newborns to adulthood and the elderly. Thus, Health Surveillance actions, such as immunizations, are developed, above all, in the sphere of the SUS, in a decentralized manner, reaffirming its extreme importance for public health (Domingues *et al.*, 2019; Gov Agency, 2023).

Thus, adolescents correspond to one of the priority groups for the PNI, due to the increased exposure to risk factors and the high susceptibility to certain diseases preventable by adequate vaccination and, above all, due to the low vaccination coverage presented by this age group (Viegas *et al.*, 2019).



Thus, it should be noted that, in adolescence, the following are recommended as routine vaccines by the Ministry of Health (MS): HPV, Triple Bacterial, Double Adult, Influenza, Meningococcal conjugate ACWY or C and Meningococcal B. For the unvaccinated or incomplete immunization, the following are also included: MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis A and B, Yellow Fever and Dengue. The approximation with the territory, through local epidemiology, allows the health service greater autonomy to work within the PSE to meet the demand demanded by the public. As a result, updating vaccine cards is necessary to understand this need for real-time vaccination coverage (SBIm, 2023).

Thus, it is important to highlight that, in the current health policy in Brazil, PHC has as one of its responsibilities the vaccination of different groups, specifically in the Family Health Strategy (FHS) (Viegas *et al.*, 2019). Therefore, the present study aims to report the experience of vaccination in a state public school, within the scope of the School Health Program (PSE), carried out by the Nursing team, nursing interns and some Community Health Agents (CHA) of a Basic Health Unit (UBS) in the municipality of Mossoró/RN.

## 2 EXPERIENCE REPORT

It is an experience report that, according to Daltro and Faria (2019), should prioritize the descriptive, interpretative, and comprehensive elucidation of the phenomena studied. The present work is the result of experiences in the School Health Program (PSE), developed by a Basic Health Unit (BHU) in a public school located in the city of Mossoró/RN.

Vaccination was carried out in a state educational institution in Rio Grande do Norte, from the PSE, for the student body, faculty and employees of that institution. The nursing team, nursing interns and some CHAs participated in the occasion by offering the vaccination service, making available the vaccines: MMR, diphtheria and adult tetanus (dT), Hepatitis B and Influenza. In this sense, we sought to promote the availability of vaccination updates for individuals present at the public school in question.

### 2.1 MATERIALS AND METHODS

To carry out the action, it was decided to divide the team into two neighboring rooms. Thus, the flow occurred from the initial reception in the first room, in which the card and vaccination records were evaluated in the "RN + Vaccine" system, identifying the pending immunizations. In view of this, the individual's vaccination card was filled out, printed documents were filled out, and the data was entered into the *online* system, forwarding the subject to the second room. In this environment, the card was checked and the vaccines necessary for vaccination update were administered.

The vaccination activity was carried out in a state school in the municipality of Mossoró/RN.



The action took place in the late afternoon and early evening of November 9, 2023, and was carried out within the scope of the PSE activities developed by the team of professionals from a UBS in the municipality of Mossoró, aiming to cover the public of adolescent high school students (1st to 3rd grade) and employees who make up the workforce of the school in question.

It is important to emphasize that, in order to ensure greater safety and hygiene, there was, in each room, a container with 70% alcohol for the hand hygiene of professionals and the public. In addition, in the room where the vaccines were being administered, there was also a container with cotton pads and a sharps box for the proper disposal of syringes with needles. It is noteworthy that the applicators performed hand hygiene, with 70% alcohol, before and after the administration of the vaccines of everyone, so as not to compromise the biosafety of the procedure.

Thus, the action provided the administration of 80 doses of vaccines, in general, to students and employees of the state public school, who had pending the respective immunobiologicals on their vaccine cards. Thus, after administration, the individuals were instructed about the possible reactions that could occur because of the immunization and the scheduling of the next doses, with subsequent release.

## 2.2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the records of the vaccines administered in the PSE action, it was found that there were, in general, 80 vaccines administered to students, teachers and employees of the public school, whose number of doses of each vaccine can be seen in Table 1. In a complementary way, Graph 1 shows the percentage of each vaccine administered in the PSE vaccination action in this state public school in the municipality of Mossoró.

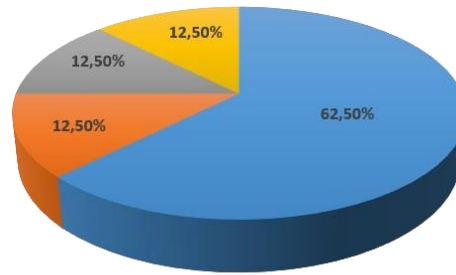
Table 1 - Number of vaccine doses administered in a state public school in Mossoró/RN, in a PSE action that took place in 2023.

Vaccines Made Available	Number of doses administered
MMR (MMR)	50
Adult diphtheria and tetanus (dT)	10
Hepatitis B	10
Influenza	10
<i>General Vaccination</i>	<i>80</i>

Source: Data collected in the lawsuit by the plaintiffs (2023).



Graph 1 - Percentage of each vaccine administered in a state public school in Mossoró/RN, in a PSE action that took place in 2023.



■ Tríplice viral (SCR) ■ Difteria e tétano adulto (dT) ■ Hepatite B ■ Influenza

Source: Data collected in the lawsuit by the plaintiffs (2023).

In view of the above-mentioned findings, the efficacy of the vaccination action in the PSE is evidenced, reaffirming the importance of actions such as these to attract and involve audiences that are often resistant in the search for health services, especially when it comes to vaccination. Thus, the scarcity of the presence of adolescents in the search for PHC services is notorious, seeking them only in more extreme cases, when they present a picture of illness and fragility of their health/disease process, with no greater interests from the perspective of disease prevention and reduction of diseases.

This is what Viegas et al. (2019) affirm when they highlight the unsatisfactory search by adolescents for Primary Health Care Units (PHC), their poor adherence to programs and actions carried out in PHC, in addition to the evident and worrying resistance to vaccination by this public. All of this is an obstacle to expanding vaccination coverage among adolescents.

Thus, the results obtained trigger the considerable negligence regarding the updating of the vaccination status, considering that some of the individuals should have already sought the UBS in the past, for the administration of vaccines and updating of the vaccination status.

Furthermore, Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 consist of photographic records made during the vaccination action in the state public school in question, expressing the valuable articulation between the nursing team, the Community Health Agents and the nursing interns, regarding the logistics of operation and execution of the PSE vaccination action. providing an update on the vaccination status and the expansion of vaccination coverage of a considerable portion of adolescents and employees of the institution.



Figure 1 - Organization of the team before starting the vaccination action in a state public school in Mossoró/RN, in 2023.



Source: Authors' collection (2023).

Figure 2 - Students from a state public school organized in a queue for reception and subsequent vaccination in Mossoró/RN, in the year 2023.



Source: Authors' collection (2023).

Figure 3 - Nursing intern administering the vaccine to an employee of a state public school in Mossoró/RN, in a PSE action that took place in 2023.



Source: Authors' collection (2023).



Figure 4 - Nursing team administering vaccines to a student from a state public school in Mossoró/RN, in a PSE action that took place in 2023.



Source: Authors' collection (2023).

### 3 CONCLUSION

Therefore, the importance of this action of the PSE is reaffirmed by enabling greater approximations with this public, which often ends up distancing themselves from the services offered at the UBS. Thus, the work of the Nursing team, articulated with the Community Health Agents and the Nursing interns, proved to be extremely relevant in the promotion of health at school, by going to the public of students and employees of the educational institution and offering vaccination services to these individuals. In addition, the University presents itself as an integration component in the PSE, so that it offers students who are readily qualified to add to the health workforce.

It is noteworthy that health promotion is a basic aspect for individuals in all areas of their unique life and experience. Thus, the vaccination action of the School Health Program is strictly related to health promotion, access to SUS services and quality of life.

In view of the above, it is noteworthy that this action allowed to go beyond the walls of the University and the Basic Health Unit, in the municipality of Mossoró/RN, to encompass a public that is often quite resistant in the search for health services and, mainly, in the vaccination process. Thus, the action made it possible to capture and immunize a significant portion of this public, providing greater proximity between the parties involved and a considerable expansion of the vaccination coverage of adolescents who study at the state public school that was the target of this action.



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