

WAC 246-100-166
Rule Proposal Summary
October 2007



Background

WAC 246-100-166: *Immunization of child care and school children against certain vaccine-preventable diseases*

- Lists required diseases in which children must show proof of immunity prior to entering school or childcare;
- Indicates how proof is documented and exceptions to a show of proof;
- Indicates when a child may be excluded from school or child care due to outbreak of disease; and
- Requires the department to develop the implementation plan.

The intent of WAC 246-100-166 and its underlying statutes is to prevent certain vaccine-preventable diseases and to help contain outbreaks of disease in schools or licensed child care. The board and department work to keep this rule updated with the most current science, by following the recommendations in the immunization schedule published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP).

Proposal

This proposal updates the definition of “national immunization guidelines” from the ACIP’s 2006 schedule to the 2007 schedule. The proposed effective date is July 1, 2008.

Effect of Proposal

Varicella is the only vaccine required for school and child care entry. The proposal:

- Requires a second dose of varicella starting with Kindergarten entry (see implementation plan).
- No longer allows documentation of the disease by the parent as proof of immunity, though serologic proof will still be an option.

The rule change may increase school and childcare staff workloads, because they may need to educate parents about the new proof requirements more often.

The department is seeking the board’s approval of a detailed varicella implementation plan, as required by WAC 246-100-166 (8)(b)(v).

For more information, please contact:

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