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New School and Child Care Immunization Listserv: No More Snail Mail!

The Immunization Program CHILD Profile created a Listserv specifically tailored to communicate immunization information to schools and child cares: now available! The DOH-SCHOOL-CHILDCARE-IMMS-INFO Listserv will be DOH's primary tool for communicating with school nurses, school office staff, health room assistants and child care providers and staff. All you need is a valid email address! Remember that the Listserv is only a one-way communication tool – it cannot be used to post questions or comments.

The Listserv WILL REPLACE all mailings like this one (typically sent in the Fall and Winter) which contain updates and Status Report information. Be sure to sign up for the Listserv so that you get the latest information you need.

Register today with your valid email at <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?LOGON>.

Several people at the same site can sign up to receive the Listserv email communications.

Stay Updated with the Listserv!

Get information about:

- Immunization updates and news,
- New vaccine requirements for school and child care,
- Links to important documents,
- Yearly Immunization Status Reports and instructions for schools and child cares,
- Vaccine shortage information,
- Vaccine-preventable disease outbreak notices, and more!

2009 Annual Status Report

The 2009 Annual Immunization Status Report for schools, child care centers, and preschools is required by law and due **November 1, 2009**. If your report is not received by the due date, it will not be included in DOH's report to the CDC.

E-filing is best! Complete your report electronically to ensure that your report has been submitted timely and is accurate. Many hand-written reports are incomplete, lack contact information, or are incorrect due to math errors. These reports demand time consuming follow up. Electronic reporting won't allow missing information and verifies that numbers are correct. It makes everyone's job easier!

Please make sure that you have your Building number and authorization codes prior to the due date, these codes do not change so you should keep them for your records. For the status report form and instructions, visit www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools/default.htm.

If you have QUESTIONS about your Status Report or need your building and authorization codes, please contact:

- Chrystal Averette at chrystal.averette@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3565
- Ros Aarthun at ros.aarthun@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3527

Changes in Preschool/Child Care Requirements for 2009-2010

As of July 1, 2009, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) will be required for all children 3 months old up to the 5th birthday who are attending child care or preschool programs. Refer to the implementation plan for more information: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>

Kids in Care

All school-aged children attending before-or after-school child care must meet the immunization requirements for their grade in school. Students older than 18 years need to meet the same immunization requirements for their **GRADE** in school.

Changes in School Requirements for 2009-2010



Tdap Requirement Advances One Grade: As of July 1, 2009, proof of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccination is required of children who are 11 years old **AND attending 6th, 7th and 8th grades, IF** it has been five years since receiving a DTaP, DT or Td vaccine. If the student is in compliance for a tetanus-containing vaccination at school admission, the Department of Health (DOH) does not require schools to monitor students throughout the school year for Tdap. However, DOH encourages schools, within existing resources, to track students that have incomplete immunizations.

Changes in Varicella Requirement: As of July 1, 2008, proof of immunity to chickenpox is required of the following groups.

- **All children 16 months of age up to Kindergarten entry** who are in child care/preschool. These kids need 1 dose vaccine; parental documentation of disease **NO LONGER** acceptable.
- **All children attending Kindergarten and 1st grade.** These kids need **2 doses** of vaccine; parental documentation of disease **NO LONGER** acceptable.
- **All children in 2nd, 3rd & 6th grade.** These children need 1 dose; parental documentation of disease **IS ACCEPTABLE**.

For a copy of the implementation plan, visit:

www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/varimplementplan.pdf

Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS)

The revised Certificate of Immunization Status was sent in January 2009 to all school districts, Head Start/ECEAP programs, and child care licensors. If you haven't received your portion (10% of enrollment), please contact your school district or child care licensor. Remember the following about the CIS:

- Do not modify the CIS. WAC 246-105-020 requires that the CIS be approved by DOH, so **ONLY ONE** official CIS is valid.
 - Use the old version until you run out.
 - The revised CIS **MUST** still have a parent/guardian signature to be valid.
 - The CIS has been translated into 20 languages: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm>
 - To decrease costs, please note the following:
 - **Use the new CIS only for new students.**
 - Print directly from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry (CPIR): Health care providers or schools may print an automatically-populated CIS from the CPIR.
 - Use legible copies of the CIS and encourage parents to print and fill out their own copy.
- Download at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm>.

Certificate of Exemption (COE)

The COE (as defined by WAC) is a separate form (no longer part of the CIS). For a religious or philosophical exemption, the parent/guardian must complete and sign. For a medical exemption, a licensed health care provider must complete and sign in addition to the parent or guardian.

Schools, preschools and child care facilities are required to "keep a list of children whose immunization status is exempt and transmit the list to the local health department upon request" (WAC 246-105-060 (2) b). A separate COE folder will provide local health with immediate information during a disease outbreak and will assist in completing the annual status report. In addition, parents or guardians must ask for a separate form, which may result in reduced "convenience" exemptions. Download copies in any of the 21 languages at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm>.

Required Notification Letters

Schools are required (RCW 28A.210.080) to provide information to parents about meningococcal and human papillomavirus (HPV) to all students Grades 6 through 12 each year. To help schools with these requirements, sample letters can be used. Find them by visiting DOH's Web site at:

www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools/default.htm

