

New Immunization Exemption Law

The new immunization exemption law goes into effect on July 22, 2011. The new law requires a parent/guardian who asks for any type of exemption for a child (medical, religious, or philosophical) to turn in a Certificate of Exemption (COE) signed by a health care provider stating that the parent/guardian got information about the benefits and risks of immunization. A parent/guardian can also turn in a signed letter from a health care provider stating the same thing.

The law gives providers who sign the COE or letter protection against civil liability. The law allows parents/guardians to claim a religious exemption without the signature of a health care provider if they demonstrate membership in a religious body that does not believe in medical treatment by a health care provider.

The Department of Health is working with the State Board of Health, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning, and other partners to update the Certificate of Exemption, develop educational materials, and implement a communication plan. When completed, we will post the updated COE and education materials on our website and send notices as soon as they become final. Look for communications on the SNOW Listserv, the DOH School and Child Care Listserv, and in various newsletters. Schools and licensed child cares: get prepared by becoming familiar with these materials.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE LISTSERV

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=DOH-SCHOOL-CHILDCARE-IMMS-INFO>

ASK A NURSE ImmuneNurses@doh.wa.gov

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IPCP WEBSITE:

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

Clinical Information and School Requirements

Trang Kuss, RN, MN, MPH
360 236-3760
trang.kuss@doh.wa.gov

School Assessment and Reporting

Ros Aarthun, MA
360 236-3527
ros.aarthun@doh.wa.gov

School Reports, IMMENU and Listserv®

Chrystal Averette
360 236-3565
chrystal.averette@doh.wa.gov

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If you have a disability and need this document in another format, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).

2011-2012 Vaccines Required for School and Child Care/Preschool Attendance Charts Revised

We updated the Vaccines Required charts for School and Child Care/Preschool. You can find the revised charts (March 2011 version) on the Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile website:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>.

We also posted the Spanish translations on our web page.

The main changes include:

- **IPV changes on both charts:** Kindergarteners and all children ages 4 through 6 years of age attending a licensed child care center or preschool must comply with new IPV requirements starting in the 2011-2012 school year. National recommendations, updated 8/7/09, require children to get the 4th dose on or after the 4th birthday. The CHILD Profile Immunization Registry automatically calculates the 8/7/09 cut-off date.
 - If a child got 4 valid doses before 8/7/09, the child does not need an additional dose.
 - If a child got dose 4 on or after 8/7/09, the child must get dose 4 on or after the 4th birthday AND ≥6 months must separate dose 3 and 4.
- **Tdap change on school chart**
 - If a child got dose 3 on or after 8/7/09, the child must get dose 3 on or after the 4th birthday AND ≥6 months must separate dose 2 and 3.
 - Accept three doses of IPV if the child got the last dose on or after the 4th birthday—the 8/7/09 date does not apply to this rule.
- **PCV change on child care/preschool chart**
 - We added back to the chart the recommendation of 5 years separating Tdap from DTaP, DT, or Td. We decided to follow the usual process for updating this requirement through the State Board of Health next year. We will change this requirement for the 2012-2013 school year.
 - The second page inaccurately showed the minimum age for dose 1 as 4 weeks. The minimum age should be 6 weeks.

CHILD Profile Immunization Registry



The CHILD Profile Immunization Registry records and tracks immunizations statewide. It has come a long way since it started nearly two decades ago. Over 91% of immunization providers statewide have enrolled in the Registry and over 82% of school districts access the Registry at www.childprofile.wa.gov to look up and print student records. Many immunization providers now send immunization data electronically to the Registry, and the numbers keep increasing. Electronic submission of data improves both the quality and the timeliness of the immunization information added to the Registry. More than likely, students in your school will have an immunization record in the Registry.

What's New on the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry Website?

Find Out-of-State Records

To find records for a student who has moved from out-of-state, check the Centers for Disease Control's Immunization Registry list to find contact information for registries in other states: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contact-state.htm>. We also have this link posted on our CHILD Profile Registry homepage at www.childprofile.wa.gov.

Get School Forms On-line!

School nurses can assign other school staff to access the Registry. Each staff person must have his or her own user account with log-in ID and password and must sign a Confidentiality Agreement. The school nurse can ask for additional user accounts by faxing a completed *User Account Request* form to the Registry. Get these forms at www.childprofile.wa.gov:

School Use of the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry

School nurses and staff:

Use the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry as a time-saving tool to access student immunization records! School nurses (and school staff assigned by the nurse) can use CHILD Profile to look up and print a student's immunization history. The Registry automatically fills in the vaccine and date information on the Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS). School staff prints the CIS and gives it to families to review, sign, and turn in to the school.

Registry Use Requirements for Schools

To use the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry, school staff responsible for documenting and verifying immunizations must:

- Click first on the *Documents* tab and then on *Public School Districts*.
- Download the *User Account Request* form and fax it to CHILD Profile at (206) 205-4146.
- Download the *Confidentiality Statement*, have your assigned staff read and sign it, and keep it on file with the school district.
- Find a quick reference guide for schools under the *Training* tab on the homepage.

Invalid Doses (X) and Warnings (!)

- CHILD Profile marks invalid doses with a red X next to a vaccination date on the *View Vaccinations* screen. The red X means an immunization was given, but did not follow the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule, and the child must be immunized again. Doses with a red X do not print on the CIS from CHILD Profile.
- A red exclamation mark (!) next to a vaccination date on the *View Vaccinations* screen means the immunization was given, did not follow the ACIP recommended schedule, but the child **does not need to be immunized again**. Doses with warnings (!) will print on the CIS form.
- Click on the vaccine date to view the *Vaccination Detail Screen* and see the reason for an invalid dose (X) or a warning (!).

Questions? Call the CHILD Profile Help Desk at 1-800-325-5599.

- Be a school nurse or assigned by the licensed school nurse to use the Immunization Registry.
- Sign the CHILD Profile Confidentiality Agreement before using the Immunization Registry. The School District keeps the Confidentiality Agreement on file.
- Keep the information you get from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry confidential as described in the Confidentiality, Privacy, and School Access document (www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/childprofile/documents/confidentialityys.pdf).
- Give the immunization record, history form, or CIS to the parent, guardian, or eligible student to review, sign, and turn into the school. School staff should not submit the CIS without parent review and signature.

Washington State law (RCW 28A.210.100 and 28A.210.110) requires a parent/guardian to submit immunization information to the school. When you, as school staff, use the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry, you help the parent report this information. You can give a child's immunization information from the Immunization Registry to the child's parent. The parent reviews the information, makes changes if needed, signs the CIS, and gives it to the school.

You may already have a signed CIS on file but need to add information to it from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry. You can do this **if** you get permission (verification) from the parent either in-person or by phone. You must note on the CIS (by your initial and the date) that you got parent permission to make the change.

It is against the law for school nurses or any assigned school staff to give information from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry directly to the school **without review** by a parent or legal guardian.

Sharing Information

Make sure you understand what student information you can share. A federal law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA), decides schools' authority to share student information. FERPA has strict rules about what information

schools can share without parent consent.

School nurses and other school staff need to know these laws and check school district policy before sharing information with anyone other than the student and the parent or guardian.

Learn More

For more information about school use of the Immunization Registry visit www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/childprofile/schools/ or call the CHILD Profile Help Desk at 1-800-325-5599.



Pierce County Decreases Exemption Rates in Rural School Districts

Submitted by Robin Peterson RN/MSN, Coordinator, Multicare-Good Samaritan Mobile Health Services

In Pierce County, we find higher immunization exemption rates in rural school districts. Reasons that add to these high rates in rural school districts include:

- Lack of access to convenient immunization services.
- Ease of obtaining an exemption.
- Misconceptions or lack of knowledge about immunizations.
- Less funding for school-based health services. Some school nurses must manage the health-related needs of an entire district!
- School office staff often collects immunization information, but may not clearly understand it.
- These same school office staff may also work with parents who wish to exempt their children from immunizations.

Mobile Immunization Program staff members from Multicare-Mary Bridge, Multicare-Good Samaritan, and Franciscan Health System worked with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to decrease exemption rates and improve compliance with immunization requirements. The project had two phases.

In Phase One, we identified students with signed exemptions and those "out of compliance" with school immunization laws. The team checked each student's record in the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry (CPIR). We added immunization information found in CPIR to the student's school record.

After this activity, an immunization nurse called parents of students still out of compliance or with exemptions on record and offered information about immunizations. The nurse talked about the importance of immunization to protect against disease and to prepare for future needs (i.e. college, work, travel). The nurse also let parents know about free vaccines for children through age 18. Vaccine information sheets (VIS) were sent home for parents to read.

In Phase Two of the project, we offered free immunization clinics at the schools during and after school hours. We didn't require parents to come during immunization for middle and high school students. School phone blast messages reminded parents of upcoming clinics.

We made many observations during the project:

- Districts underutilized CPIR. Checking the registry alone improved immunization rates by about 50%.
- Some vaccine records in student files did not get entered into school databases.
- Staff entering data made frequent errors, because they were unfamiliar with their own database system and did not have a clear understanding of vaccine names. For example:
 - MMRV was entered as MMR.
 - Tdap got entered as Td only. This happened because of database formatting.
 - Errors in data entry were more frequent when the source was a print out from the MD office rather than the Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS).
- Staff perception and forms influenced use of exemptions:
 - Outdated forms (those with the Certificate of Exemption on the back of the CIS) increased out of compliance and exemption rates.
 - Parents used exemptions commonly for convenience to get children into school, with little or no follow up from the school.
- Parents generally supported the project:
 - They did not always realize their child needed vaccines.
 - Many had vaccinated their children but had not turned the vaccine record into the school.
 - Many expressed gratitude for the convenience of school vaccine clinics.
- True personal or philosophical exemptions were **rare**; exemptions were obtained mostly for convenience.
- School phone automated messaging proved very effective.
- Obvious overall improvements district-wide took place:
 - Completely immunized increased from 57.9% to 79.4%.
 - Exemptions decreased from 10% to 3.1%.
 - Conditional status decreased from 6.8% to 1.9%
 - Out of compliance decreased from 24.8% to 11.3%.

The "Take Away" messages from this project:

- School secretarial staff remains critical to immunization compliance.
- Staff has frequent contact with parents and need to know and support the value of vaccination.
- Staff must know immunization abbreviations, get training to correctly document vaccines in the school database, and have time to enter data.
- Use of CPIR by school secretarial staff saves a great deal of time and energy in maintaining student compliance with immunizations.

Our project shows that school immunization compliance increases with support from school administration. Policies that do not allow class registration or attendance without completing vaccine records, and do not allow convenience exemptions effectively improve immunization rates. Enforcement of policies that support vaccine standards will lead to a school community that has better protection against vaccine-preventable diseases, and saves countless school staff time better spent on important student needs.

Immunization Exemption for Homeless Students and the McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Act requires each school district to designate a liaison to "assist homeless children in obtaining necessary immunizations or immunization records in a timely manner." According to this Act, homeless students must immediately enroll in and attend school, even if they lack immunization records.

Whenever possible, the liaison helps the student get immunization records, get needed immunizations, or when

appropriate, sign an exemption. Homeless students should not claim a general personal or philosophical exemption just because they are homeless.

Find your district's homeless liaison list posted on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us/homeless/default.aspx.

Start a Campaign for High Schoolers



School nurses, local health, and community partners: are you looking for ideas to promote adolescent immunizations? Consider a "Vaccinate Before You Graduate" campaign in your community.

We all know that vaccines are not just for babies and young children. As children get older, the protection provided by some early childhood vaccines can wear off. Teens may also start making choices that put them at risk for some diseases. For these reasons, older children, including teens, need to get their recommended vaccinations. Don't assume that these kids have had all their immunizations. A health care provider should review adolescent immunization records to figure out what's missing. Encourage teens to get a copy of their shot record and keep it in a safe place.

Washington State buys all recommended vaccines for children through age 18 years of age. So a campaign to get teens up-to-date on their immunization before they graduate and turn 19 is timely and perfect! Find the 2011 Child & Adolescent Immunization Schedules at the CDC website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>

Get started with these resources:

1. Adolescent immunization information from the Washington State Department of Health: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/immunization/teens.htm>
2. Adolescent immunization from the CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol.htm>
3. The National Meningitis Association: <http://www.nmaus.org/press-room/materials/NMA%20Brochure.pdf>
4. GotMyShot: <http://www.gotmyshot.com/>
5. Examples of Vaccinate before you Graduate campaigns include:
 - California (Department of Health and School Nurses Organization): [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/IMM765\(2-07\).pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/IMM765(2-07).pdf)
 - Texas (Dallas County): http://my.hsj.org/Schools/Newspaper/tabid/100/view/frontpage/schoolid/3161/articleid/343265/newspaperid/3256/Vaccinate_Before_You_Graduate_Drive_2010.aspx
 - Rhode Island (High School, Bristol): <http://www2.bw.k12.ri.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=18886&&PHPS ESSID=ocmpgyrp>

Mailings of CIS End This Year

We sent copies of the Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) to schools and child cares for the last time in February 2011. Due to budget cuts, we cannot send any more copies of the CIS after this year (2011). Order copies from the Department of Printing while supplies last (<https://fortress.wa.gov/prt/printwa/wsprt/default.asp>).

Download a completed CIS from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry

or print a blank copy from the DOH website. Child cares and schools can encourage parents to print a copy of the CIS from home to fill out before they enroll their child. Only accept the official, valid, DOH CIS. Download the CIS and COE in any of 21 languages from DOH <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/forms/default.htm>

Reminders:

- Health care providers must sign the

CIS only if the student needs documentation of disease history, such as for chickenpox.

- An updated Certificate of Exemption goes into effect on July 22, 2011. See the "New Immunization Exemption Law" article for more details on health care provider and parent/guardian signatures.
- Health care providers must sign the COE.