
Confidentiality, Privacy and Head Start and/or ECEAP Access to the Washington State Immunization Information System

Background

The Washington State Immunization Information System (the system) operates under the Washington State Health Care Information Act (RCW 70.02), as well as other state and federal laws that govern the use of and sharing of health information. RCW 70.02 allows licensed health care professionals to exchange patient-specific health care information without patient/parental consent for the purpose of providing, coordinating, or facilitating health care, and for the purpose of preventing and controlling disease.

Key Points for Agency Nurses

- 1) Since agency nurses are licensed healthcare providers, as described in RCW 70.02, and have a bona fide need-to-know the immunization status of students for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, they are authorized to participate in the system. An Information Sharing Agreement for Head Start and/or ECEAP Grantee Agencies with a Licensed Healthcare Provider on Staff must first be signed by the grantee and filed with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Immunization and Child Profile.
- 2) Non-licensed program staff that are assigned by the agency nurse and have signed a Confidentiality Agreement on file may utilize the system to obtain information for immunization documentation and verification.
- 3) In accordance with RCW 28A.210.100 and 28A.210.110, it is the parent's responsibility to submit immunization information to the Head Start and/or ECEAP program. In utilizing the system, the agency nurse or assignee is facilitating parent report. As such, the agency nurse will provide information from the system **to the parent** of the child for which the information was obtained. The parent will be directed to review, amend if needed, sign, and submit to the Head Start and/or ECEAP program.

Currently, Head Start and/or ECEAP personnel have "view-access" to the system. Parent signature is **NOT** required to **view data** in the system.

Written parent consent is required for an agency nurse or assignee to **add** immunization information to a child's record in the system. In the future, the ability to enter data may be a function that becomes available to Head Start and/or ECEAP Programs.

Questions about the contracts with the Washington State Immunization Information System should be directed to:

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Immunization and Child Profile
360-236-3595 or 1-866-397-0337

If you have a disability and need this document in another format, please call 1-800-525-0127 (711-TTY relay)

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