Dear Health Care Provider,

In September 2022, an unvaccinated young adult contracted paralytic polio in New York that was not associated with international travel. It was determined through wastewater surveillance that poliovirus was circulating in New York state and possibly other parts of the U.S. This resulted in the U.S. losing its polio free designation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviewed the information and updated its recommendation for polio vaccination in those age 18 and older. The updated recommendations are listed below:

[Adult Immunization Schedule – Healthcare Providers | CDC](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fschedules%2Fhcp%2Fimz%2Fadult.html%23addendum-adult&data=05%7C01%7Ckatherine.graff%40doh.wa.gov%7C6f49747143cc4bdd614208dbc06a633e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638315335388402518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sXf4Wy0BC%2BCkII2XbepH1lrPqVRQy9lXavyrVxpCv6Y%3D&reserved=0)

* Adults (age 18+) who are known or suspected to be unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated against polio should complete a primary vaccination series with inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).
* Adults who have received a primary series of trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) or IPV in any combination and who are at increased risk of poliovirus exposure may receive another dose of IPV. Available data do not indicate the need for more than a single lifetime booster dose with IPV for adults.

The Washington state school immunization requirements are based on the CDC ACIP recommended schedule. Starting with the 2023-24 school year, this fall, all students, including those age 18 or older, are required to complete their polio vaccine series. Public schools have students enrolled up to age 21.

[School and Child Care Immunization | Washington State Department of Health](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoh.wa.gov%2Fcommunity-and-environment%2Fschools%2Fimmunization%23reqs&data=05%7C01%7Ckatherine.graff%40doh.wa.gov%7C6f49747143cc4bdd614208dbc06a633e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638315335388402518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RxjyqN9WK9RUuK2TP%2Fv3DDSavue2lxldgs7uUgvWntM%3D&reserved=0)

The Individual Vaccine Requirements Summary (IVRS) document is a good reference for the vaccine schedule rules, exceptions to the rules and the catch-up schedules. We update it every school year. You can find the IVRS in the [Immunization Requirements](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doh.wa.gov%2FCommunityandEnvironment%2FSchools%2FImmunization%23reqs&data=05%7C01%7Ckatherine.graff%40doh.wa.gov%7C6f49747143cc4bdd614208dbc06a633e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638315335388402518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=k6HUuJzj6CJdriXEZkb59q%2BL2k0VW6sqbaDM4nDHtfY%3D&reserved=0) section of the School and Child Care Immunization page at [www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.doh.wa.gov%2FSCCI&data=05%7C01%7Ckatherine.graff%40doh.wa.gov%7C6f49747143cc4bdd614208dbc06a633e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638315335388402518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wTsSf3xm5NbBJW01CrIJtY%2F1NDlNnZ60wg144qeUl4k%3D&reserved=0). Page 19 has the details of the polio requirements:

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To attend school, students age 18 or older who have not completed their polio vaccine series are required to do so or have a completed Certificate of Exemption exempting them from the polio requirement. Antibody titer testing for polio immunity is not an option since testing for poliovirus type 2 is no longer available. Healthcare providers can assist students to meet school immunization requirements by administering additional IPV doses when needed.

* IPV is covered through the Childhood Vaccine Program until students turn 19.
* Students 19 years of age or older can bill insurance for IPV.

The Washington Immunization Information System (WAIIS) polio forecast was updated to reflect the new ACIP recommendations.

Questions about the school immunization requirements can be directed to [oischools@doh.wa.gov](mailto:oischools@doh.wa.gov).

Thank you for sharing this information with your clinics,