



Immunize Washington FAQs

1. **What is Immunize Washington?** It is the annual state award to recognize individual medical clinics/medical practices on obtaining high immunization coverage rates on childhood and adolescent vaccines.
2. **How do I get the award?** Clinics must nominate themselves using data from the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS).
3. **When can we nominate our clinic for the award?** The nomination period begins January 1 and is open for about 45 days.
4. **How do I nominate my clinic for an award?** A flyer at immunizewa.org gives step-by-step instructions for running reports and submission steps.
5. **What are the steps for award nomination?** Clinics must run a coverage rate report, complete the survey form, and email the coverage rate report to immunizewa@doh.wa.gov. Failure to complete all steps can result in clinic/practice not being recognized.
6. **What does Gold, Silver, and Bronze status mean?** Gold status refers to reaching 80 percent or higher coverage rates for the childhood and adolescents vaccine series, silver level is for 70-79 percent of that series, and bronze status is for providers who have 70 percent or higher for the first dose of HPV.
7. **What do we receive for winning an award?** Award winners receive formal recognition, a certificate signed by the governor, and a window cling.
8. **When are award notification sent out?** We announce the winners on Monday during National Infant Immunization Week, the third week in April every year.

9. **How long does it take to receive our certificate?** We try to get awards to providers within a month after award nominations. You can help with the process by completing the entire survey and sending in your coverage rate report. Please only submit one nomination per clinic; duplicate submissions slow down the process.
10. **Are we allowed to post information on social media about being an award winner?** Yes, we highly encourage clinics and organizations to post information about being an award recipient. Please use the hashtag #ImmunizeWA on any social media posts you make about the award.
11. **Are we allowed to post the Immunize WA logo on our webpage?** Yes. If you are an award winner and would like to post the annual award logo, please contact barry.iverson@doh.wa.gov.
12. **Why are data from our electronic medical record not allowed to be used for nominations?** The data from other sources cannot be verified by state immunization program staff. It is also the goal of the Washington State Department of Health and the Health Plan Partnership to ensure that the IIS has the most complete and accurate data for HEDIS measures, outbreak vulnerability within Washington, for schools, and for other data uses.
13. **Why do we have to nominate ourselves?** One purpose of the award is to increase the number of clinics who actively measure their own immunization rates within the IIS. Currently, there are a large portion of providers each year who report not measuring their coverage rates.
14. **How can I improve my rates in my clinic or medical practice?** There are many different strategies that can improve immunization rates, such as participating in an AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and Exchange) visit and other immunization quality improvement (QI) activities. Other activities include inactivating patients who are no longer seen in your practice and performing reminder/recalls to bring patients up to date on immunizations. If you are interested in an AFIX visit or other QI projects, contact chrystal.averette@doh.wa.gov.

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 711).



December 2017 348-674