

Students

Immunizations and Life-Threatening Health Conditions Procedures

Immediately upon enrollment in the district, the student's parent or legal guardian must provide proof of the required immunizations as specified by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) with a completed Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form approved by the DOH, and/or an exemption with a completed Certificate of Exemption (COE) form approved by the DOH. The student cannot start attending school until the completed CIS and/or COE is on file at the school, or the Conditional Immunization Status conditions have been met. Students experiencing homelessness, including migratory and refugee children and children in out-of-home (foster) care, who have not provided the required documentation will be allowed to enroll, attend classes, and participate fully, despite being out of compliance with immunization requirements.

The CIS or COE will be a part of the student's permanent record. The district will provide access to immunization records of each student enrolled to agents of the state or local health department. The district will return the CIS and/or COE or a legible copy to the parent or legal guardian if the child is withdrawn or transferred from the district. The district may not withhold the CIS and/or COE for any reason, including nonpayment of school fees.

Certificate of Immunization

The immunization status of all students must be documented on a completed CIS form.

All immunization information documented on a CIS by new enrollees starting school on or after August 1, 2020 must be medically verified. A CIS printed from the Washington Immunization Information System (IIS) with immunization information prepopulated is considered medically verified by the IIS. A hardcopy CIS completed by the parent or legal guardian must be verified as accurate by either a health care provider signature or by a school administrator, school nurse or designee's signature after verifying that the information on the CIS is accurate when compared to medical immunization records attached to the CIS.

For currently enrolled students all new immunization documentation submitted on or after August 1, 2020, must be on a medical immunization record. School staff may use the information on the medical immunization record to update the student's existing CIS on file.

Conditional Immunization Status Attendance

If by a student's first day of attendance the student does not have documentation of all of the required immunizations the student may be permitted to start school in a temporary "conditional immunization status" provided that the student has received all of the immunizations, they are eligible to receive and are waiting for the recommended date of the next vaccine does according to the national immunization catch-up schedule. The parent or guardian must sign the CIS acknowledging the conditional status rules and timelines. Once the next dose comes due the student can remain in conditional status for thirty (30) calendar days to have time to turn in the

required documentation. If the thirty (30) calendar day period expires and documentation has not been given to the school the student will be excluded from further attendance. Valid documentation includes medical records showing vaccination evidence of immunity to the disease in question, or a completed COE form.

Exemptions from Immunization

Any and all exemptions will be processed and recorded on a COE form approved by the DOH. All exemptions requested on a COE must be signed by the parent or legal guardian.

The district will grant religious exemptions from one or more of the required immunizations if the parent or legal guardian completes the religious exemption section of the COE.

Subject to the exception below, all COE forms presented after July 22, 2011, must also have the signature of a health care practitioner (HCP) saying they have given the parent or guardian information about the benefits and risks of immunizations. The form may be signed by an HCP at any time prior to the enrollment of the child in school. Photocopies of the signed form or a letter from the HCP referencing the child's name will be accepted in lieu of the original form. Such a letter should be attached to the COE signed by the parent or legal guardian. Only a health care practitioner who is a physician (MD), physician assistant (PA), osteopath (DO), naturopath (ND), or advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) licensed in Washington State may sign the COE.

The district will grant religious membership exemptions from one or more of the required immunizations without the signature of an HCP described above if the parent or legal guardian completes the religious membership section of the COE and signs affirming they are a member in a religious body or church with beliefs or teachings that preclude a child from receiving medical treatment from a HCP.

The district will grant medical exemptions from one or more of the required immunizations if the HCP indicates on the COE that in their opinion the vaccine is not advisable for the student. If the HCP indicates the medical exemption is temporary an expiration date must be documented on the COE. When a temporary medical exemption expires the student can attend school in "conditional immunization status" for thirty (30) calendar days to get the missing immunization or another exemption. If the thirty (30) calendar day period expires and documentation has not been given to the school, the student will be excluded from further attendance. Valid documentation includes medical records showing vaccination, evidence of immunity to the disease in question, or a completed COE.

The district will grant personal/philosophical exemptions from one or more of the required immunizations, except measles, mumps or rubella, if the parent completes the personal/philosophical exemption section on the COE. As required under Washington law, the district will not grant an exemption for philosophical or personal reasons from the measles, mumps, or rubella immunization requirements.

Exclusion from School for Noncompliance with Immunization Laws

The school principal will exclude students from further attendance who are out of compliance with immunization requirements as required in RCW 28A.210.120. When excluding students, the school will provide written notice as required in WAC 392-380-050. Written notification will:

- Order that the student is excluded immediately, and
- Be delivered in-person, email, or by mail, and
- Be in the parent's native language if possible, and
- Include a copy of the applicable laws and rules (RCW 28A.210.010-160, 246-105 WAC, and 392-380 WAC, and
- Provide information regarding immunization services available through local health or other public agencies, and
- Include notice that the parent/legal guardian and student has a right to a hearing provided they notify the school within three (3) school days after receiving the exclusion order, and
- Explain that the exclusion continues until either the required immunization documentation, or a completed Certificate of Exemption (COE) form is turned into the school, or a hearing officer determines that the student is no longer excluded from school.

List of Students not Fully Immunized

The district will keep or be able to produce within twenty-four hours a current list of children who are not fully immunized. The list must be transmitted to the local health department upon request. The local health office may use this list for easy identification of students to be excluded from school temporarily during a disease outbreak.

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