

STUDENT IMMUNIZATION AND LIFE THREATENING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Student Immunization

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the board requires a student to present evidence of his/her having been immunized against the following diseases as required by 28A.210 RCW and the Washington State Board of Health 246-105 WAC.

Exemptions from Immunization

The district will allow for exemptions from immunization requirements only as allowed for by RCW 28A.210.090 and WAC 246-105-050.

Meningococcal Disease, Human Papilloma Virus Disease and Vaccine Information Distribution

At the beginning of every school year information provided by the Washington State Department of Health about meningococcal disease, human papilloma virus (HPV) disease and their vaccines. The information will include the causes and symptoms of meningococcal disease, human papilloma virus, how the diseases are spread, the places where parents/guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children, and current recommendations from the United States Centers for Disease Control Prevention regarding the vaccines.

Life Threatening Health Conditions

Prior to attendance at school, each child with a life-threatening health condition will present a medication and treatment order from a Licensed Healthcare Provider (LHP) addressing the condition. The authorization must be accompanied by a written request from a licensed health professional prescribing within the scope of his or her prescriptive authority. A life threatening health condition means a condition that will put the child in danger of death during the school day if a medication or treatment order providing authority to a registered nurse and nursing plan are not in place. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a nursing plan shall be developed.

Students who have a life-threatening health condition and no medication or treatment order presented to the school shall be excluded from school, to the extent that the district can do so consistent with federal requirements for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and pursuant to due process requirements in School District Procedure 3413P.

Exclusion from School

The district will exclude students as required in RCW 28A.210.120 from further presence at the school who are out of compliance with the immunization requirements and students with a life-threatening health condition as required in WAC 392-380-045 WAC who do not have a medication or treatment order in place.

The superintendent will adopt procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Cross References:	Board Policy	2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
		2162	Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
		3115	Students Experiencing Homelessness
		3416	Medication at School
Legal References:	RCW	28A.210	Health Screening and requirements
	WAC	180-38-040-065	Immunization and life threatening health - conditions
		246-100-166	Immunization – vaccine preventable diseases
		246-105	Immunization of child care and school children against certain vaccine-preventable diseases
		392-182	Student - Health records
		392-380	Public school pupils – Immunization requirement and life-threatening health condition

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 Revised: 12/17/02, 08/15/06, 03/18/08, 11/03/20

Procedure - Student Immunization and Life Threatening Health Conditions

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 Department of Health with a completed Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form approved by the Department of Health, and/or an exemption with a completed Certificate of Exemption (COE) form approved by the Washington Department of Health. 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 and/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 reasons, including nonpayment of school fees.

Certificate of Immunization

School staff may verify that the student's immunizations are complete in the WA Immunization Information System (IIS), in this situation a CIS is not required to be on file. School staff will document this verification in the student's cumulative school record. If the immunizations are not complete in the IIS the immunization status of 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. A district school nurse or their delegate, with parent or legal guardian permission, may use the information on the medical immunization record to update the student's immunization information in the IIS.

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 that he/she is eligible to receive and is waiting for the recommended date of the next vaccine dose according to the national immunization catch-up schedule. The parent or legal guardian must sign the CIS acknowledging the conditional status rules and timelines that follow. 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 additional vaccines are needed conditional status continues in a similar manner until all of the vaccine series are complete. 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 Certificate of Exemption (COE) form.

Exemptions from Immunization

Any and all exemptions will be processed and recorded on a Certificate of Exemption (COE) form approved by the Washington Department of Health (DOH). All exemptions requested on a COE must be signed by the parent or legal guardian. Additionally, with the exception of a religious membership exemption, all COE forms presented on or 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 a HCP at any time prior to the enrollment of the child in a school. Photocopies of the signed form or a letter from the HCP referencing the child’s name shall 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 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 Certificate of Exemption (COE) form.

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

The district will grant religious membership exemptions from one or more of the required immunizations 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 HCP signature is not required for a religious membership exemption.

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. The district will not grant an exemption for philosophical or personal reasons from the measles, mumps, or rubella immunization requirements.

Exclusion from School

The school principal will exclude students from further attendance who are out of compliance with the immunization requirements as required in RCW 28A.210.120.

When excluding students, the school will provide written notification as required in WAC 392-380-050. Written notification will:

- Order that the student is excluded immediately, and
- Be delivered in person or by certified 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 392-182 WAC sections 005, 020, 045, 050, 080), 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) days after receiving the exclusion order from the school principal, and
- Describe the hearing process, and
- Explain that the exclusion continues until either the required immunization documentation, or a completed Certificate of Exemption form is turned in to the school, or a hearing officer determines that the student is no longer excluded from school.

If the parent requests a hearing, the district will notify in writing the parent or guardian and school principal of the time and place for the hearing and will present the case to a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent

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. This list must be transmitted to the local health department upon request. The local health officer may use this list for easy identification of students to be excluded from school temporarily during a disease outbreak.