



# Online Learning and School Immunizations

9/28/2020

## Q: What are the immunization requirements for schools with online learning?

All schools are required to comply with the immunization laws and rules including public schools, private schools, charter schools, alternative education programs and any program that provides educational instruction designed to lead to a high school diploma or transfer into a regular high school program.

Schools are not required to report on students who participate fewer than five in-person activities per school year. In-person activities include, but are not limited to, classes, meeting with an instructor in a school building, testing, sports, music, tutoring, and field trips.

## Q: During the COVID-19 epidemic, schools are not sure when in-person classes will be back in session or in-person activities will resume. How do schools know if students will participate in in-person activities five times this year? How do schools manage immunization record keeping?

This is a challenging year to plan and prepare. If a school intends or expects to offer five or more in-person classes or in-person activities (see above for examples) this school year, plan on implementing all immunization rule requirements and activities including collecting immunization records, notifying parents of missing vaccines, reporting to the local health authority in January, and enforcing Exclusion Day. We want kids to be safe from outbreaks of disease in whatever form their school looks like: in a regular classroom, in a small group cohort, or online at home with their family.

## Q: What are the requirements if the school will only have online learning and no in-person activities this school year?

If the school intends to have students exclusively online for the full school year and offer fewer than five in-person activities, then these students can be “not counted” when the school submits its immunization report. However, schools are encouraged to continue to collect immunization records for these students, in preparation for in-person learning next school year.

## Q: Many schools are beginning the year offering only online classes. How do schools manage immunization reporting this year?

Schools intending to resume in-person education or activities during the 2020-2021 school year need to collect immunization records and plan on reporting in the winter. These actions will help schools to transition safely and quickly to in-person learning when they are able.

Schools that have some but not all students attending in-person activities have two options for managing immunization reporting requirements.

Option 1: The school collects immunization records and report on all students. Some schools find it to be simpler to report on all students, rather than tracking which individual students participate in in-person activities. This option can be easier for schools with students moving back and forth between in-person and online education.

Option 2: The school reports only on students who participate in in-person activities five or more times in a school year. The school reports the students who participate in in-person activities fewer than five times a year in the “not counted” category of the Primary Review Summary reports. This requires the school to track how many times each student participates in in-person activities or if students intend to participate in future in-person activities. The school still collects immunization records for all students in case they do participate in five or more in-person activities per year.

## Q: How do schools operating online exclude students on Exclusion Day?

Students who have received an exclusion order and not submitted the information to their school administration by exclusion day will be excluded from access to online programs and participation in in-person activities until the information has been received. Alternatively, for schools that distinguish between online students and students participating in in-person activities five or more times a school year, exclusion may occur by prohibiting participation in in-person activities.

Questions? Please email [oregon.imm@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.imm@state.or.us).