

STUDENT IMMUNIZATION AND LIFE THREATENING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Certificate of Immunization

Immediately upon enrollment in the district, the student's parent/guardian will complete a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS), distributed by the Washington Department of Health, or submit a medically verified immunization record. The district will make the certificate and/or medically verified immunization record part of the student's permanent record.

Medically Verified Records

Starting on August 1st 2020 the revised rule requires medically verified immunization records for school and child care entry. Medically verified records include one or more of the following:

1. A Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) printed from the Immunization Information System (IIS)
2. A physical copy of the CIS form with a health care provider's signature
3. A physical copy of the CIS with accompanying medical immunization records from a health care provider verified and signed by school nurse.
4. A CIS printed from My IR
5. An immigration form or lifetime immunization record from another country with a clinic or healthcare provider stamp, or handwritten provider signature

The ultimate decision to enter an immunization record is based on the school nurse's best clinical judgment.

Washington State Immunization Information System (WA IIS) School Module

The School Module is a feature of the Washington State Immunization Information System (WA IIS), an online registry of immunization records for people of all ages in Washington State. The School Module is a free, secure, and easy-to-use web-based tool that allows users to track and manage student and school-level immunization information.

With the School Module, schools can access existing immunization records in the WA IIS entered by healthcare providers, providing them with information they need to conduct important immunization work. The goal of this system is to improve compliance rates with immunization requirements and to support healthy, well-vaccinated students. The School Module allows expanded access to the WA IIS. School nurses can delegate authority to non-healthcare personnel to access the School Module to assist with student immunization compliance work. School nurses operate under their healthcare license when they allow non-healthcare personnel to access the School Module. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guides the school's authority to disclose information. According to the act, a school nurse or assignee should have written parent consent to add immunization information to a child's record in the Washington State Immunization Information System. This may be accomplished in a variety of ways. Parents/guardians may sign the permission to share information on the CIS form. They may send their permission in an electronic form. The district may also

utilize the annual Health Registration form to obtain parent permission to add immunization information to the WA IIS.

Conditional Status

If, by the student's first day of enrollment, a student does not have the required immunization documentation, the student's parent/guardian may submit evidence of having initiated an immunization schedule, which will provide the student "conditional admittance" status. Students may attend under conditional status for a limited time. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the student's first day of attendance, the parent/guardian must provide any missing immunization(s) and/or provide documentation needed to complete the CIS. If a student needs additional doses to complete a vaccine series, he/she will remain in conditional admittance status for a maximum of thirty (30) calendar days after the next dose is due until the series is complete. Failure to submit documentation within these timelines will be sufficient cause to exclude the student from school.

Exemptions from Immunization

Any and all exemptions will be processed and recorded on a Certificate of Exemption (COE) as provided by the Washington Department of Health (DOH).

The district will grant exemptions from one or more vaccines for medical reason upon certification by a Licensed Healthcare Provider (LHP) that there is a medical reason for not administering the vaccine.

The district will grant exemptions for personal or religious reasons upon the parent/legal guardian's submission of a DOE, signed by an LHP, stating that the parent/guardian has either a philosophical, personal, or religious objection to the immunization of the child and the LHP provided the parent/guardian with information about the benefits and risks of immunization. The LHP may sign the at any time prior to the district's enrollment of the child. The district will accept a photocopy of the signed form or a letter from the LHP in lieu of the original form.

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine required for school and child care entry.

- The law took effect July 28, 2019 and applies to public and private schools.
- The law also requires employees and volunteers at child care centers to provide immunization records indicating they have received the MMR vaccine or proof of immunity.
- This law does not change religious and medical exemption laws. Children who have one of these types of exemptions on file are not affected.

If a COE states the parent/legal guardian is a member in a religious body or church with beliefs or teaching that preclude a child from receiving medical treatment for a LHP, the LHP signature on the COA is not required.

The district will mark the permanent file of students who have exemptions for easy identification should the local department of health order that exempted students be excluded from school temporarily during an outbreak or an epidemic.

If the district does not receive a COE upon the student's enrollment in school, the principal or designee will provide written notice to the parents/ guardians informing them of:

- A. The immunization requirements;
- B. The potential that the student will be denied attendance unless documentation needed to complete the CIS are provided within thirty (30) calendar days of the student's first day of attendance;
- C. The procedural due process rights; and
- D. The immunization services available.

Immunization Exclusion from School

Following proper notification, the school will exclude the student for noncompliance with the immunization laws subject to the appeal procedures for student expulsions (Policy 3241) according to the following due process requirements:

- A. Written notice to the parent/guardian delivered to the parent/guardian in person or by certified mail;
- B. Notice of the applicable immunization laws, including a copy of the laws and rules;
- C. The order that the student will be excluded from school immediately and until completed CIS and /or COE (if appropriate) is presented;
- D. Explain the rights of the parents and student to a hearing, the hearing process and explain that the exclusion continues until the completed CIS and COE (if applicable) is presented or the hearing officer determines that the student should no longer be excluded from school;
- E. If the parent/guardian request a hearing, the district will schedule one within three school days of receiving the request, unless more time is requested by the parent/guardian; and
- F. The hearing process will be consistent with the procedures established for disciplinary cases pursuant to Chapter 392-400 WAC.

Life-Threatening Health Conditions

At the time of enrollment and annually thereafter, at the beginning of each school year, each student's parent/guardian will be required to complete, sign and return the Student Health Registration/Update to the school. Parents/guardians will notify the school if there are any changes in their child's health conditions during the year.

Prior to attendance at school, each child with a life-threatening health condition will present a medication or treatment order addressing the condition. 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 to provide health services and nursing plan are not in place. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a nursing plan will be developed.

Life-Threatening Health Conditions Exclusion from School

Students who have a life-threatening health condition and no medication or treatment order presented to the school will 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 Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and according to the following due process requirements:

- A. Written notice to the parent/guardian delivered to the parent/guardian in person or by certified mail;
- B. Notice of the applicable laws, including a copy of the laws and rules;
- C. The order that the student will be excluded from school immediately and until a medication or treatment order is presented;
- D. Explain the rights of the parent/guardian and student to a hearing, the hearing process and explain that the exclusion continues until the medication or treatment plan is presented or the hearing officer determines that the student should no longer be excluded from school;
- E. If the parent/guardian request a hearing, the district will schedule one within three school days of receiving the request, unless more time is requested by the parent/guardian; and
- F. The hearing process will be consistent with the procedures established for disciplinary cases pursuant to Chapter 392-400 WAC.

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