

## **Student Immunization and Life-Threatening Health Conditions**

### **Required Immunization Documentation**

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 The district will return the CIS and/or COE or a legible copy to the parent or legal guardian if the child is withdrawn or transferred from the district.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 health 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.

Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS) School Module: The School Module is a feature of the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS), an online registry of immunization records for people of all ages in Washington State. The School Module is a 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 IIS entered by healthcare providers. 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 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 written or electronic form to the district. The district may also add the signed permission to its annual Health Registration form.

### **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 times lines 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 HCP indicates on the COE that in their opinion the vaccines is not advisable for the student. If the HCP indicated 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 membership 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. Per WAC 246-105-055

### **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.

**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 completed medication and/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 and/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 and/or treatment order, a nursing plan will be developed.

Annually, and as needed, members of the health services team will notify parent/guardian's by mail of the required medication and/or treatment orders from a licensed health care provider, needed to address the condition. The parent/guardian will complete the required documents and present them to the school, with proper medication, prior to the start of school. The health services team will make as many attempts as needed to notify parent/guardians of the requirements for their child.

In the event that a student no longer has a diagnosed life-threatening health condition as per RCW 28A.210.320, proper documentation from both the licensed health care provider and the parent/guardian is required to discontinue the current orders and the need for future orders.

**Life-Threatening Health Conditions Exclusion from School**

Students who have a life-threatening health condition and no medication and/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 and/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 and/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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