

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

### Immunizations

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that immunization is a means of protection and prevention in the spread of disease, the board requires that a student present evidence of his/her having been immunized against diseases required by the State Board of Health.

### Certificate of Immunization

Immediately upon enrollment in the district, a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS), distributed by the Washington Department of Health, will be completed by the student's parent/guardian. The certificate will be made a part of the student's permanent record.

If, by the student's first day of enrollment, a student does not have documentation for receipt of any or all of the required immunizations, he/she will submit evidence of the initiation of an immunization schedule and be placed in a "conditional admittance" status. Students may attend under conditional admittance status for a limited time. The parent or guardian must provide, within thirty (30) days of the student's first day of attendance, 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) 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 distributed by the Washington Department of Health. Exemptions from one or more vaccines will be granted for medical reason upon certification by a health care practitioner<sup>1</sup> that there is medical reason for not administering the vaccine(s).

Exemptions for personal or religious reasons will be granted upon request of the parents/guardian. To request an exemption, a parent or guardian must submit a signed COE that the parent/guardian has a philosophical, personal or religious objection to the immunization of the child. Forms must include a statement to be signed by a health care practitioner stating that he or she provided the parent/guardian with information about the benefits and risks of immunization. The form may be signed by a health care practitioner at any time prior to the enrollment of the child in a school or licensed day care. Photocopies of the signed form or a letter from the health care practitioner will be accepted in lieu of the original form.

---

<sup>1</sup> A Licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, osteopathic physician and surgeon, naturopathic physician, podiatric physician and surgeon, physician assistant, osteopathic physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner acting within the scope of his/her license.

Any parent or legal guardian of the child who exempts the child due to religious beliefs is not required to have a COE signed by a health care practitioner if the parent or legal guardian demonstrates on the COE membership in a religious body or a church in which the religious beliefs or teachings of the church preclude a health care practitioner from providing medical treatment to the child.

The permanent file of students with exemptions will be marked 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 a certificate of exemption is not received upon the student's enrollment in school, the principal will provide written notice to the parents/guardians informing them of:

- A. The immunization requirements;
- B. The potential denial of the student's attendance;
- C. The procedural due process rights; and
- D. The immunization services available.

#### Exclusion from School

Following proper notification, the school will exclude the student for noncompliance with the immunization laws pursuant to the appeal process procedures for student expulsions. Parents/guardians have a right to a hearing provided they notify the school within 3 days after receiving the exclusion order from the school principal. If the parent/guardian requests a hearing, the parent/guardian and school principal will be notified in writing of the time and place for the hearing and will present the case to a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent.

#### Meningococcal Immunizations Information Distribution

The district will provide parents and guardians of students in sixth grade and above with information about meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. The information will address the characteristics of the disease; where to find additional information about the disease; vaccinations for children; and current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding receiving the vaccine.

#### Human Papillomavirus Disease Information

At the beginning of every school year, the district will provide to parents and guardians of sixth through twelfth grade students, information provided by the state Department of Health about human papillomavirus (HPV) disease and its vaccine.

The information will include the causes and symptoms of human papillomavirus, how the disease is spread, the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children, and current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention regarding the vaccine.

### Life-Threatening Health Conditions

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 and nursing plan are not in place. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a nursing plan will be developed.

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:

1. Written notice to the parents, guardians or persons in loco parentis delivered to the parents in person or by certified mail;
2. Notice of the applicable laws, including a copy of the laws and rules;
3. The order that the student will be excluded from school immediately and until a medication or treatment order is presented;
4. Explain the rights of the parents and student to a hearing, the hearing process and that the exclusion continues until the medication or treatment plan is presented or hearing officer determines that the student should no longer be excluded from school;
5. If the parents request a hearing, the district will schedule one within three (3) school days of receiving the request, unless more time is requested by the parents; and
6. The hearing process will be consistent with the procedures established for disciplinary cases pursuant to Chapter 392-400 WAC.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.210	Health – Screening and requirements
	WAC 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

June 26, 2001

Revised: May 27, 2003

Revised: Sept. 12, 2006

Revised: September 11, 2007

Reviewed: March 2012

Revised: February 12, 2013