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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

February 20, 2020

(X) Action Required  
( ) Informational

**BULLETIN NO. 012-20 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT**

**TO:** Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
Public Charter Schools  
Tribal Compact Schools  
School District Directors  
School Principals  
School Nurse Supervisors

**FROM:** Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** School Immunization Rule Changes Starting August 1, 2020

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**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) made changes to WAC 246-105, which establishes requirements for immunizations in all public and private schools and child care centers. The majority of these changes go into effect August 1, 2020 and will impact all schools in Washington.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has created [an immunization rule change webpage](#) to answer questions and help schools and child care centers comply with these changes. This webpage also includes materials and templates for school staff to use to inform parents and guardians of the changes.

## NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Beginning August 1, the following changes to immunization practices must be implemented:

1. **Conditional Status.** In the past, students had 30 days from the first day of attendance to turn in their immunization documentation to the school. The new rule clarifies that students without immunization paperwork should not attend school until the required paperwork is turned in to the school. If they are missing vaccine doses, they must get any doses they are eligible to receive **before** attending school. Once they have provided the required paperwork to the school indicating they have received all vaccines they are currently eligible to receive, they can attend school. If more doses are needed in a series that require spacing for dosing purposes, the student is considered in conditional status, and can participate in school while completing the vaccine series. Children in conditional status must be making progress toward meeting the immunization requirements.
2. **Medically Verified Records.** All immunization records turned in to a school or child care center must be [medically verified](#). This means immunization records turned in to the school must be from a health care provider or otherwise verified by a health care provider. Here are some examples of medically verified immunization records:
  - a. A completed [Certificate of Immunization Status \(CIS\)](#) signed by a health care provider.
  - b. A CIS filled out by the parent/guardian with medical records attached.
  - c. A CIS printed by a health care provider or school from the Washington State Immunization Information System.
  - d. A CIS printed from [MyIR](#) which is a free Department of Health online tool that allows families to view and print their official immunization records themselves.
  - e. If the parent/guardian is requesting an exemption from one or more of the immunization requirements, the parent/guardian must provide the school a completed Certificate of Exemption.
3. **Tdap Vaccine Changes.** The Tdap vaccine is required for school attendance in certain grades. The Tdap is a booster vaccine which continues to protect children and youth against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis diseases they were immunized against as young child. Starting on August 1, the Tdap school requirement is changing to start at 7th grade instead of 6th grade to better align with the updated 2019 national immunization schedule.

## KEY POINTS

- You can find a wealth of resources, including, implementation guidelines, answers to frequently asked questions, and sample parent letters, on the DOH School and Child Care Immunization website [here](#).
- To help districts with their spring 2020 enrollment process, please see the Attachment for a sample letter that can go out to families immediately.
- The complete details for Chapter 246-105 WAC can be found [here](#).
- The State Board of Health immunizations rules page can be found [here](#).

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Nicole Klein, OSPI Health Services Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6040 or email [health.services@k12.wa.us](mailto:health.services@k12.wa.us), or Danielle Koenig, DOH Health Promotion Supervisor at 360-236-3529 or [danielle.koenig@doh.wa.gov](mailto:danielle.koenig@doh.wa.gov). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631. This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins and Memoranda](#) page of the OSPI website.

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Attachment: Sample Letter

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