

Chapter 246-105 WAC
IMMUNIZATION OF CHILD CARE AND SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST CERTAIN VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

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WAC

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WAC 246-105-010 Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to protect children and the public against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Under the authority of the board of health, this rule describes the immunization requirements of children attending schools and child care centers.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-010, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-020 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Certificate of exemption (COE)" means a form for the purpose of documenting an exemption to the school or child care immunization requirements that is approved by the department and consistent with the requirements of WAC 246-105-050(4).

(2) "Certificate of immunization status (CIS)" means a form for the purpose of documenting a person's immunization status that is approved by the department and consistent with the requirements of WAC 246-105-050(2).

(3) "Chief administrator" means:

(a) The person with the authority and responsibility for supervising the immediate operation of a school or child care center; or

(b) A person designated in writing by the statutory or corporate board of directors of the school district or school; or

(c) If (a) and (b) of this subsection do not apply, a person or persons with the authority and responsibility for supervising the general operation of the school district or school.

(4) "Child" means any person regardless of age admitted to:

(a) Any public school district; or

(b) Any private school or private institution subject to approval by the state board of education or described in RCW 28A.305.130 and 28A.195.010 through 28A.195.060; or

(c) Any child care center.

(5) "Child care center" means any facility or center licensed by the department of children, youth, and families under chapter 43.216 RCW that regularly provides early childhood education and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than twenty-four hours per day.

(6) "Child care health consultant" means a licensed registered nurse meeting the qualifications established in WAC 110-300-0275 or their designee.

(7) "Conditional" means a type of temporary immunization status where a child is not fully immunized against one or more of the vaccine-preventable diseases required by this chapter. A child in this status is allowed to attend a school or child care center only if the parent provides proof of immunization consistent with the schedule established in WAC 246-105-060 (2) (a).

(8) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

(9) "Exempt" or "exemption" means a type of immunization status where a child has not been fully immunized against one or more of the vaccine-preventable diseases required by this chapter due to medical, religious, philosophical or personal reasons. A child in this status is allowed to attend a school or child care center only by providing the required COE form.

(10) "Full immunization" or "fully immunized" means an immunization status where a child has proof of acquired immunity or has been vaccinated with immunizing agents against each of the vaccine-preventable diseases listed in WAC 246-105-030 according to the national immunization guidelines described in WAC 246-105-040.

(11) "Health care practitioner" means a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A or 18.57A RCW, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(12) "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified or registered in a profession listed in RCW 18.130.040(2), if administering vaccinations is within the profession's scope of practice.

(13) "Immunizing agent" means any vaccine or other immunologic drug licensed and approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or meeting World Health Organization (WHO) requirements, for immunization of persons against vaccine-preventable diseases.

(14) "Local health officer" means the individual appointed under chapter 70.05 RCW as the health officer for the local health department, or appointed under chapter 70.08 RCW as the director of public health of a combined city-county or combined county health district.

(15) "Medically verified immunization record" means a valid record that is:

(a) An electronic or written medical health record from a health care provider or facility at which the provider practices; or

(b) A document from a secure, web-based application that records and tracks immunization dates such as an immunization registry.

(16) "National immunization guidelines" means guidelines that are:

(a) Approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); and

(b) Published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*; and

(c) Consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in WAC 246-105-040.

(17) "Out of compliance" means a type of immunization status where a child:

(a) Is not fully immunized for their age and grade against any of the vaccine-preventable diseases listed in WAC 246-105-030 according to the national immunization guidelines described in WAC 246-105-040; and

(b) Is not in conditional status for the missing required immunization; and

(c) Does not have a COE for the missing required immunization.

(18) "Parent" means, for the purposes of signature requirements in this rule:

(a) The mother, father, legal guardian, or any adult *in loco parentis* of a child less than eighteen years of age; or

(b) A person who is eighteen years of age or older and signing for themselves; or

(c) An emancipated minor.

(19) "Religious membership" means membership in a religious body or church whose teachings or beliefs preclude a health care practitioner from providing medical treatment to the child.

(20) "School" means a facility, site, or campus for programs of education as defined in RCW 28A.210.070 to include preschool and kindergarten through grade twelve.

(21) "School nurse" means person credentialed under chapter 18.79 RCW, meeting the qualifications for a school nurse established under chapter 181-79A WAC, or their designee.

(22) "Washington state immunization information system (WAIIS)" means a statewide, secure, web-based lifetime immunization registry that tracks medically verified immunization records for people of all ages in Washington state.

(23) "WAIIS school module" means a feature of the WAIIS that allows users to track and manage medically verified student and school-level immunization information.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-020, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-020, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-020, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-030 Vaccine-preventable diseases children must be protected against for full immunization. In accordance with the conditions of this chapter, a child is required to be vaccinated against, or show proof of acquired immunity for, the following vaccine-preventable diseases before attending school or a child care center:

- (1) Chickenpox (Varicella);
- (2) Diphtheria;
- (3) German measles (Rubella);
- (4) Haemophilus influenzae type B disease;
- (5) Hepatitis B;
- (6) Measles (Rubeola);
- (7) Mumps;
- (8) Pneumococcal disease;
- (9) Polio (Poliomyelitis);
- (10) Tetanus; and
- (11) Whooping cough (Pertussis).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-030, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-030, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-040 Requirements based on national immunization guidelines. The department shall develop and distribute implementation guidelines for schools and child care centers that are consistent with the national immunization guidelines described in this section and the requirements in WAC 246-105-090.

(1) Unless otherwise stated in this section, a child must be vaccinated against, or provide documentation of immunity against, each vaccine-preventable disease listed in WAC 246-105-030 at ages and intervals according to the national immunization guidelines in the "Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger—United States, 2019"; as published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) 2019; 68(5):112-114.

(2) As part of the implementation guidelines, the department shall align the ages and intervals specified in the national immunization guidelines and this chapter with a corresponding grade level.

(3) In addition to the ages and intervals required by subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the following vaccine administration guidelines shall apply.

(a) Schools shall accept proof of immunization status by grade level as required by subsection (2) of this section.

(b) Schools and child care centers may accept one of the following as proof of a child's immunization status against varicella:

(i) Documentation on the CIS form that the child received age appropriate varicella vaccine; or

(ii) Diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella disease by a health care provider acting within their scope of practice; or

(iii) Diagnosis or verification of a history of herpes zoster by a health care provider acting within their scope of practice; or

(iv) Serologic proof of immunity against varicella; or

(v) Documentation by the parent that a child has a history of varicella. This type of proof will be accepted only for certain grade levels described in the department's implementation guidelines according to WAC 246-105-090(2).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and RCW 28A.210.080, 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-040, filed 10/22/19, effective 11/22/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.060. WSR 17-16-124, § 246-105-040, filed 7/31/17, effective 8/31/17; WSR 16-15-103, § 246-105-040, filed 7/20/16, effective 8/20/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-040, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 12-17-018, § 246-105-040, filed 8/2/12, effective 9/2/12; WSR 11-05-060, § 246-105-040, filed 2/11/11, effective 3/14/11; WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-040, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-050 Required documentation of immunization status.

(1)(a) Before a child may attend a school or child care center, a parent must provide proof of immunization status using either a CIS or a COE form, or both. Information provided on these forms is to be used by a school nurse, child care health consultant, or the chief administrator to determine the immunization status of a child as: Fully immunized, out of compliance, conditional, or exempt.

(b) Any child identified as experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq., or in foster care under 20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(E) lacking documentation of immunization status on or before the first day of attendance must be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in all school activities.

(2) The CIS form must be either produced from the WAIIS or a department-approved hardcopy CIS form. A hardcopy CIS form not produced from the WAIIS must include completion of the following fields:

(a) Name of child;

(b) Birth date;

(c) Type of vaccine(s) administered;

(d) Month, day, and year of each dose of vaccine received;

(e) A section to indicate whether a COE form accompanies the CIS form;

(f) If applicable, a statement signed and dated by a parent acknowledging the requirements for their child's attendance under conditional status, which includes progress towards full immunization consistent with the schedule established in WAC 246-105-060 (2)(a);

(g) A section to document serologic proof of immunity signed by a health care provider acting within their scope of practice; and

(h) A statement signed and dated by a health care provider stating that the information on the CIS is accurate; or

(i) A statement signed and dated by a school nurse, child care health consultant, or the chief administrator stating that they have confirmed the accuracy of the CIS by review of the child's medically verified immunization record, and have attached the medically verified record to the CIS. For the verification to be valid the immunization record must contain:

(i) Name of child;

(ii) Birth date;

(iii) Type(s) of vaccines administered;

(iv) Month, day, and year of each vaccine administration or if applicable serologic proof of immunity verified by a health care provider acting within their scope of practice; and

(v) The name and signature of the health care provider responsible for administering or reviewing each immunization; or

(vi) A unique stamp, logo, or other information identifying the health care provider or facility at which the provider practices.

(3) Alternately, in lieu of a CIS, a school or child care center using the WAIIS school module may accept verification by school staff that the child is fully immunized as recorded in the WAIIS.

(4) A parent who seeks an exemption to the immunization requirement must provide a department-approved COE form signed by a parent. A COE form must include:

(a) Name of child;

(b) Birth date;

(c) A field to indicate whether the parent is claiming a medical, religious, personal, or philosophical exemption. Philosophical and personal objections may not be used to exempt a child from measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine as described in WAC 246-105-055. This field must include:

(i) A statement from a health care practitioner that includes the practitioner's printed name, signature, and date of signature stating that they have provided the parent information about the benefits and risks of immunization to the child as a condition of obtaining a medical, religious, personal, or philosophical exemption;

(ii) The requirement in (4)(c)(i) of this subsection does not apply to a parent who demonstrates a religious membership under subsection (4)(c)(vi) of this subsection;

(iii) A field to indicate any permanent or temporary medical exemption, and if temporary, the exemption expiration date for one or more vaccines which must be signed and dated by a health care practitioner;

(iv) A field to indicate any personal or philosophical exemption for one or more vaccines, except for the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine as described in WAC 246-105-055;

(v) A field to indicate any religious exemption for one or more vaccines; and

(vi) A field to demonstrate religious membership. This must include a statement signed and dated by the parent affirming membership in a church or religious body where the teachings of the church or religious body preclude a health care practitioner from providing medical treatment to the child;

(d) Notice to parents that if an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease for which the child is exempted occurs, the child may be excluded from the school or child care center for the duration of the outbreak; and

(e) Parent signature and date.

(5) Parents who must include a signed statement from a health care practitioner under subsection (4)(c)(i) of this section may submit:

(a) A photocopy of the signed COE in place of the original; or

(b) Along with the COE form, a letter from the health care practitioner in lieu of the signed statement under subsection (4)(c)(i) of this section. The letter must:

(i) Indicate that the health care practitioner has provided the parent information about the benefits and risks of immunization to the child;

(ii) Reference the child's name; and

(iii) Be signed and dated by the health care practitioner.

(6) If immunizations are deferred on a temporary basis for medical reasons under subsection (4)(c)(iii) of this section, the child must provide proof of full immunization consistent with the schedule established in WAC 246-105-060 (2)(a) once the medical exemption has expired.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-050, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-050, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-050, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-055 Philosophical and personal exemption for measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine prohibited. A philosophical or personal exemption may not be used to exempt a child from the measles, mumps, and rubella immunization requirement.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-055, filed 10/22/19, effective 11/22/19.]

WAC 246-105-060 Duties of schools and child care centers. (1)

Schools and child care centers shall require on or before the first day of attendance either a CIS or COE form that documents a child's immunization status as required by WAC 246-105-050:

(a) For new enrollees registering for admission into preschool and kindergarten through grade twelve or a child care center as a requirement of admission;

(b) Annually for continued enrollment in a child care center; and

(c) Any child identified as experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq., or in foster care under 20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(E) lacking documentation of immunization status on or before the first day of attendance must be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in all school activities.

(2) A school nurse, child care health consultant, or chief administrator shall use information from the CIS or COE form to determine the immunization status of a child as: Fully immunized, out of compliance, conditional, or exempt.

(a) For enrollees attending under conditional status or an enrollee with an expired temporary medical exemption, except those identified under subsection (1)(c) of this section, the following schedule for documenting proof of full immunization applies:

(i) Any doses the child is eligible to receive based on the requirements established in WAC 246-105-040 must be administered on or before the first day of attendance. Any additional missing immunizations must be received within thirty calendar days after the first day of attendance or after a temporary medical exemption is no longer valid, unless receipt within such time is inconsistent with the national immunization guidelines; or

(ii) When the immunizations are part of a series with recommended intervals between doses, each additional missing immunization must be received no later than thirty calendar days past the recommended date of administration of the next dose as established by the national immunization guidelines.

(b) Failure to document proof of full immunization consistent with the schedule established in (a) of this subsection shall result in exclusion of a child from a school or a child care center as described in WAC 246-105-080.

(3) In maintaining child immunization records, schools and child care centers shall:

(a) Keep all department-approved forms described in WAC 246-105-050 for each enrolled child attending their school or child care.

(b) 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.

(c) Return the applicable department-approved CIS or COE or a legible copy of such documents to the parent if the child is withdrawn from a school or child care center or transferred from the school. A school or child care center may not withhold from the parent a child's department-approved CIS or COE for any reasons, including nonpayment of school or child care center fees.

(d) Provide access to immunization records to agents of the state or local health department of each child enrolled.

(4) In maintaining child immunization records, the chief administrator shall:

(a) Retain records for at least three years on a child who is excluded from school under this chapter. The record must include the child's name, address, and date of exclusion.

(b) Submit an immunization status report under RCW 28A.210.110 in a manner approved by the department. The report must be submitted to the department by November 1 of each year. If a school opens after October 1, the report is due thirty calendar days from the first day of school.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-060, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-060, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-060, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-070 Duties of health care providers or organizations. A health care provider administering immunizations, or the organizations he or she works for, either public or private, shall furnish each person immunized, or their parent, with a medically verified immunization record containing information required by this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-070, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140 and 28A.210.090. WSR 14-06-037, § 246-105-070, filed 2/25/14, effective 3/28/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-070, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-080 Criteria for excluding children from schools or child care centers. For any child excluded under subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section, schools must use procedures consistent with chapters 180-38 and 392-380 WAC. A school or child care center shall exclude a child if one or more of the following applies:

(1) Parent(s) fail to provide documentation of immunization status as required in WAC 246-105-050 on or before the child's first day of attendance.

(2) A child attending under conditional status fails to make progress toward full immunization as required in WAC 246-105-060 (2)(a).

(3) A child has been admitted under a temporary medical exemption and the particular vaccine for which the exemption was granted is no longer contraindicated and the child fails to make progress toward full immunization as required in WAC 246-105-060 (2)(a).

(4) A local health officer excludes a child from school or a child care center under chapter 246-110 WAC during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease if the child has not been fully immunized against that disease due to:

- (a) Conditional status;
- (b) Out of compliance status;
- (c) Medical exemption;
- (d) Religious exemption;
- (e) Philosophical exemption; or
- (f) Personal exemption.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-080, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-080, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]

WAC 246-105-090 Implementation. (1) The department shall develop and distribute implementation guidelines for schools and child care centers that:

(a) Meet the requirement of WAC 246-105-040(2); and
(b) Reflect national immunization guidelines for children who did not receive required immunizations prior to entry into kindergarten or first grade, and for whom a full series of immunizations is not recommended.

(2) The department may develop school implementation guidelines that waive or modify immunization requirements when a phasing-in period is warranted for a new immunization mandate, when there is limited availability of a required immunizing agent, or when new information about the safety or efficacy of an immunizing agent prompts a reevaluation of an existing vaccination requirement. Any waiver or modification must:

(a) Reflect the best available medical research as indicated by the ACIP or the state health officer recommendation;

(b) Identify a specific vaccine-preventable disease or immunizing agent;

(c) Identify a specific cohort of children by age or grade level;

(d) Be limited in duration; and

(e) Be approved by the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140, 28A.210.080, and 28A.210.100. WSR 19-21-161, § 246-105-090, filed 10/22/19, effective 8/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.140. WSR 09-02-003, § 246-105-090, filed 12/26/08, effective 1/26/09.]