

**RCW 74.42.285 Immunizations—Rules.** (1) Long-term care facilities shall:

(a) Provide access on-site or make available elsewhere for all residents to obtain the influenza virus immunization on an annual basis;

(b) Require that each resident, or the resident's legal representative, upon admission to the facility, be informed verbally and in writing of the benefits of receiving the influenza virus immunization and, if not previously immunized against pneumococcal disease, the benefits of the pneumococcal immunization.

(2) As used in this section, "long-term care facility" is limited to nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW.

(3) The department of social and health services shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(4) This section and rules adopted under this section shall not apply to nursing homes conducted for those who rely exclusively upon treatment by nonmedical religious healing methods, including prayer. [2002 c 256 § 2.]

**Intent—Findings—2002 c 256:** "It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that long-term care facilities are safe.

(1) The long-term care resident immunization act is intended to:

(a) Prevent and reduce the occurrence and severity of the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease by increasing the use of immunizations licensed by the food and drug administration;

(b) Avoid pain, suffering, and deaths that may result from the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(c) Improve the well-being and quality of life of residents of long-term care facilities; and

(d) Reduce avoidable costs associated with treating the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease.

(2) The legislature finds that:

(a) Recent studies show that it is important to immunize older citizens against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(b) The centers for disease control and prevention recommend individuals living in long-term care facilities and those over age sixty-five receive immunizations against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(c) The influenza virus and pneumococcal disease have been identified as leading causes of death for citizens over age sixty-five; and

(d) Immunizations licensed by the food and drug administration are readily available and effective in reducing and preventing the severity of the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease." [2002 c 256 § 1.]

**Short title—2002 c 256:** "This act may be known and cited as the long-term care resident immunization act of 2002." [2002 c 256 § 3.]