

# Immunization

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## Immunization Requirements

Proof of required immunizations as specified by the Washington Department of Health is required before a student may attend school (including Homelink and Running Start programs). The student **cannot start attending school** until a completed [Certificate of Immunization Status \(CIS\)](#) and/or [Certificate of Exemption \(COE\)](#) is on file at the school, or the [Conditional Immunization Status](#) conditions have been met. If your student is experiencing homelessness, including migratory and refugee children and children in out-of-home (foster) care, exemptions to vaccination requirements may apply. Contact the school principal or school nurse for more information.

## Certificate of Immunization

School staff may verify that the student's immunizations are complete in the WA Immunization Information System (IIS). If the immunizations are not complete in the IIS, the student's parent or legal guardian must provide proof of the required immunizations 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) for approved by the Washington Department of Health.

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.

## **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 (with exception of a religious membership exemption) requested on a COE must be:

- Signed by the parent or legal guardian, and
- Signed by a provider saying they have given the parent or guardian information about the benefits and risks of immunizations.
  - 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 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

## **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](#).

## **My IR**

You can obtain a copy of your own or your child's (under age 18) immunization record located in the Washington Information System (WAIIS).

Visit [MyIR Mobile](#) to keep up to date with past immunizations, get reminders for your family's future immunizations, and even print your own official records. Note: There are some health providers who do not link to this system. Please contact your health provider directly to obtain a copy of immunization records if you do not see updated records on [MyIR Mobile](#).

## **Other Immunization Resources:**

Check the website [Department of Health](#) for more information on immunization requirements.

Are you looking for your student's out-of-state immunizations records? [Click here to contact the IIS in your state](#)