



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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April 17, 2015

Dear School District Superintendents,

With measles, whooping cough (pertussis), and other diseases increasing in our state and in the nation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) encourage school districts to develop policies regarding staff immunizations and to know the immunization or immunity status of your staff in case of a disease outbreak at schools in your districts.

While immunizations are not required for school staff, having easily accessible staff immunization records can prepare schools to respond in a timely manner should a disease outbreak occur. Readily available staff immunization records also can help schools maintain continuous instruction for students in the event that a local health jurisdiction responds to a disease outbreak by excluding students and staff from school who don't have proof of immunity.

Suspected, confirmed cases, or outbreaks of diseases associated with the school must be reported to the local health department ([RCW 28A.210.010](#) and [WAC 246-101-420](#)). All susceptible staff not completely immunized or immune **may be** excluded from school.

We suggest that immunization or proof of immunity documentation for all school nurses, teachers, staff, and student teachers be kept on file. The following immunizations are recommended for school staff: measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), varicella (chickenpox), diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (Tdap and Td), hepatitis B, and influenza (flu). See the recommended immunization table for more details. A [sample staff immunization history form](#) is available on the DOH web page.

To get adult immunizations, contact your healthcare provider, local pharmacy, or local health jurisdiction. In addition to the immunizations specifically recommended for school staff, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends other adult immunizations: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/adult.html.

Immunization records for staff members may be available in the Washington Immunization Information System, a statewide immunization system in which providers enter immunizations after vaccines are administered. School nurses or their assistants with access to the system may print staff immunization records after getting consent from the staff member.

For more information, visit the [Department of Health](#), contact your [Local Health Jurisdiction](#), or contact Robin Fleming, OSPI Health Services Program Administrator, at 360-725-6040.

Recommended Immunizations for Teachers and School Staff

| Vaccine | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) | Persons Born Before 1957 | Persons Born in or After 1957 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 doses of vaccine recommended for healthcare personnel (including school nurses) • Not at high risk: generally considered immune (US or foreign born). Vaccine not routinely recommended, but 1 dose of vaccine may be given • Testing is NOT necessary. However, if testing occurred and result is negative, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine is recommended, depending on risk level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 dose of vaccine if not at high risk • 2 doses of vaccine if high risk (healthcare personnel, including school nurses, international travelers, and students attending college) • Vaccine needed even with history of prior disease diagnosed by a provider • No vaccine needed if documentation of blood test shows positive immunity • No vaccination or testing needed if documentation of 1-2 doses of MMR vaccine (number of doses depend on risk level) |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 doses of vaccine • Other evidence of immunity: no vaccine needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthcare provider verification of chickenpox disease or herpes zoster (shingles) ○ Persons born before 1980 (does NOT apply to healthcare personnel, pregnant women, and immunosuppressed persons) ○ Blood test showing positive immunity | |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses | |
| Tdap/Td | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 dose of Tdap, then Td booster every 10 years • Pregnant women should get Tdap during EACH pregnancy, regardless when the last dose was received | |
| Influenza (flu) | Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older | |

Sincerely,



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