

Student Immunization and Life Threatening Health Conditions

Certificate of Immunization

Immediately upon enrollment in the district a certificate of immunization status, distributed by the Washington Department of Health, will be completed by the student's parent. The certificate will be made a part of the student's permanent record.

If a student has not received any or all of the required immunizations, he/she will submit evidence of the initiation of an immunization schedule and will be placed in a "conditional admittance" category. He/she may remain in school for one school year provided that there is documentation that the immunization schedule is being maintained. Failure to maintain the schedule or submit documentation will be sufficient cause to exclude the student from school.

Exemptions from Immunization

Exemptions from one or more vaccines will be granted for medical reason upon certification by a physician that there is a medical reason for not administering the vaccine.

Exemptions for personal or religious reasons will be granted upon request of the parent. To request an exemption, a parent or guardian must submit a signed written certification that the parent/guardian has either a philosophical or personal objection to the immunization of the child. Forms must include a statement to be signed by a health care practitioner stating that he or she provided the parent/guardian with information about the benefits and risks of immunization to the child. The form may be signed by a health care practitioner at any time prior to the enrollment of the child in a school or licensed day care. Photocopies of the signed form or a letter from the health care practitioner will be accepted in lieu of the original form.

Any parent or legal guardian of the child who exempts the child due to religious beliefs is not required to have a form from a health care practitioner if the parent or legal guardian demonstrates membership in a religious body or a church in which the religious beliefs or teachings of the church preclude a health care practitioner from providing medical treatment to the child.

The permanent file of students with exemptions will be marked for easy identification should the department of health order that exempted students be excluded from school temporarily during an outbreak or an epidemic.

If proof of immunization or a certificate of exemption is not received upon the student's enrollment in school, the principal will provide written notice to the parents or guardians informing them of:

- A. The immunization requirements;
- B. The potential denial of further attendance by the student;
- C. The procedural due process rights; and
- D. The immunization services that are available.

Exclusion from School

Following proper notification, the school will exclude the student for noncompliance with the immunization laws pursuant to the appeal process procedures for student expulsions. Parents *shall* have a right to a hearing, provided they notify the school within 3 days after receiving the exclusion order from the school principal. If the parent requests a hearing, the parent or guardian and school principal will be notified in writing of the time and place for the hearing and will present the case to a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent.