

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION PRACTICE

BACKGROUND

States institute mandatory immunization requirements as a prerequisite to public school enrollment because it is the most efficient method of perpetuating herd immunity. Herd immunity is present in a community when such a high percentage of its members have been immunized from a particular disease that the disease cannot gain a foothold in the community (Ciolli, 2008) State and local vaccination requirements for daycare and school entry are important tools for maintaining high vaccination coverage rates, and in turn, lower rates of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) (CDC, 2015).

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

- [Vaccine Schedule, Birth-6 years of age](#)
- [Vaccine Schedule, 7-18 years of age](#)
- [Vaccine Schedule, 19 and older](#)
- [Minimum Age and Interval Guidelines for Immunization](#)
- [Vaccine Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

VACCINES AND PREVENTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

[Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)

SCHOOL PROCESS

SCHOOL LAW

[Oregon School Immunization Law Handbook](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

[Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, OAR 333 Division 50, School Immunization Rules.](#)

[Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, ORS 433.235-284, Communicable Disease Control in Schools.](#)

LEGAL ADDENDUMS (2015)

[Senate Bill 895](#)

ORS 433.235 through 433.284 [excerpted] requires evidence of immunization, a medical or nonmedical exemption, or immunity documentation for each child as a condition of attendance in any school or facility and require exclusion from school or facility attendance until such requirements are met. This mandate is inclusive of all children's facilities including both public and private education settings. The law permits the school district or facility to be more conservative, as long as the rules are consistent with [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP); however, the district may not adopt less stringent guidelines.

- The intent of the school and facility immunization statutes and these rules is to require that:

- A new enterer provide a signed and dated [Certificate of Immunization Status](#) form documenting evidence of immunization, documentation of medical or nonmedical exemption, or immunity documentation.
- A transferring child provide evidence of immunization, immunity documentation or an exemption:

THE REQUIRED PROVISION OF STUDENT DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED PER OAR 333-050-0010 through 333-050-0140 FOLLOWS:

STUDENT SCENARIO	DOCUMENTATION	TIMELINE
A new enterer not previously enrolled in school	Evidence of Immunization, documentation of immunity or exemption	Prior to attendance
A transferring student from another school in the United States	Evidence of Immunization, documentation of immunity or exemption	Within 30 days of enrollment if records will be requested from the other school. Prior to attendance if records will not be requested.
A transferring student from outside the United States	Evidence of minimum 1 dose each required immunization, documentation of immunity or exemption.	Prior to attendance or with conditional enrollment (30 day period to begin complying with catch up schedules to get up to date prior to exclusion).
A student transferring from one local facility to another	Evidence of Immunization, documentation of immunity or exemption	Prior to initial attendance
A child currently enrolled	Evidence of Immunization, documentation of immunity or exemption	A student can be excluded* when the child's record is not current, specifically in the case of a student inadvertently or erroneously enrolled with no record.

*Exclusion of any students outside the routine exclusion period should be processed in collaboration with the school nurse and the local health department

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

[Clackamas County Public Health-Immunization Department](#)

Immunizations@clackamas.us

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Medical exemptions are uncommon, and are fulfilled only if the immunization administration is contraindicated (such as current chemotherapy or anaphylaxis to previous vaccines). Medical exemptions must come from a licensed health care provider, a doctor's note indicating that the student is on a revised schedule is not a medical exemption.

NONMEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

By far, most parents in Oregon vaccinate their children. However, parents who do not want their children to be vaccinated can claim a nonmedical exemption for one or all school immunizations. Exemptions can be granted by:

- An [education certificate](#) signed by the student provider
- Education certificates for each applicable vaccine from the state health division online [vaccine education module](#).
- A doctor's note is NOT an exemption.

EXCLUSION

Exclusion from school is the terminal result for families who do not meet the documentation requirements that are set forth by Oregon Public Health law. Individual exclusion may occur at any time for enrolled students who were enrolled in error with no documentation. In such cases, a special exclusion order must occur in cooperation with the local health department and the district nurse. The prevention of exclusion during the annual school exclusion process should be a methodical approach from the time of enrollment until the designated exclusion date, which is set as the third Wednesday in February. The exclusion process and notification to the local health department (LHD) should begin per the yearly designated schedule (primary review schedule) sent to each school prior to the February exclusion date. This includes dates each report should be submitted to the local health department.

- PRIMARY REVIEW SCHEDULE
- PRIMARY REVIEW SUMMARY
 - [Section A](#)
 - [Instructions for Section A \(hard copy\)](#)
 - HLT619 in Synergy
 - Enrollment cut off is 30 days prior to the date the report is due to the local health department. [Example: The submission date scheduled for 2016 was 01/13/2016, so the enrollment cutoff date should be 12/13/15]
 - [Sections B-D](#)
 - [Instructions for Section B \(hard copy\)](#)
 - Select "Sections B-D" via HLT 619 in Synergy
 - [Section E-G](#)
 - [Instructions for Section E-G \(hard copy\)](#)
 - HLT621 in Synergy
 - [Section H](#)
 - [Instructions for Section H \(hard copy\)](#)

- Select “Section H” HLT621 in Synergy
 - Orders of Exclusion
 - [No Record](#)
 - HLT216 in Synergy
 - Enrollment cutoff date as noted above. The exclusion date should be entered as the date designated by the local health department and the mailing date as 14 days prior to the exclusion date. [Example: The 2016 exclusion date is 02/17/2016, the mailing date is 02/03/2016]
 - [Incomplete/Insufficient](#)
 - HLT215 in Synergy
 - Dates as previously noted for Exclusion order with no record.

SCHOOL YEAR TIMELINES

All efforts should be made to prevent students from being excluded:

Vaccine record review is a yearlong process. Timelines should be regarded as a tool to obtain the most current immunization data.

Kindergarten Round-Up	Provide required vaccine schedules for school attendance, inform parents that new students, including Kindergartners are not able to begin if they do not provide required documentation that the student is up to date or exempt. The school can decline to permit students to attend without current vaccine information.
August-September	Ensure students have appropriate documentation at registration for the new school year, as above. If a student is provided a conditional enrollment, provide this in writing. The school can decline to permit students to attend without current vaccine information. Exemption rates are required to be posted on the schools website and be made available in writing.
Monthly beginning in October	Run Report HLT 414 in Synergy to track any students who are not up to date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Alert Immunization Information System (Alertiis) for missing doses. Update Synergy if missing information is found in Alertiis. • Provide notification to parents in writing informing them of missing doses, requiring updated documentation within 30 days. • If a student is erroneously enrolled with no record, a special exclusion order can be requested via the district nurse to the local health department after the family is notified in writing.
December	Enrollment cutoff date for exclusion is in December, exclusion packets are sent to schools. Timelines per exclusion packet should be followed for report submission to the LHD. A reminder should be sent to families in writing who are not in compliance per HLT414.

January	<p>School Exclusion Process: Submission of reports to LHD.</p> <p>A reminder should be placed on the school website and/or in the bulletin to remind families of exclusion and requirements.</p>
February	<p>Exclusion Orders are mailed by the Local Health Department (LHD) prior to Exclusion Day and the LHD mails Exclusion Orders the first week in February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may not return to school <u>until they meet the required vaccine documentation requirements</u>. • The parents are responsible to provide documentation; the school is responsible to follow up with parents of excluded students. <p>Final exclusion summaries should be submitted to LHD after exclusion.</p>
March-May	<p>Documentation review needs to continue for newly enrolled and transferred students per OARS. It is not appropriate to wait until school exclusion the following year to notify parents of missing documentation.</p> <p>Exemption rates for current year should be updated on the website and made available in writing.</p>

Role of Registrar or Attendance Secretary:

In Oregon, school immunizations records are considered academic records for the purposes of enrollment and attendance. They are one of several pieces of documentation that the registrar or attendance secretary is obliged to obtain for enrolled students, thus the role of data collection, notification and participation in exclusion reporting should primarily be delegated to the registrar or attendance secretary.

Role of the District Nurse:

The district nurse should serve as a liaison between the state or local public health department and the school district to provide adequate and accurate communication as it pertains to changes in immunizations, exclusion, or other applicable legislative changes and current immunization mandates. The district nurse should serve as a consultant for immunization inquiries and serve as the front lines of communication to providers and parents in complex cases when warranted and provide general communication to secretaries and administrators. The District RN should provide consultation to the school district regarding local policies and procedures related to immunizations and provide support in regards to exclusion processes including validation of submission of reports. The RN should provide up to date information on the current local epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases when applicable.

Role of Administrator

Each administrator should have an understanding of laws as they pertain to exclusion of students. The administrative role should include delegation of tasks to support staff as needed for mandated process and enforcement of exclusion as warranted. The administrative role includes communication that is consistent with the District RN's and the Local Health Department and reflective of current applicable OARS/ORS.

REFERENCES

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