

## Frequently Asked Questions for Medical Providers

- Which shots does Oregon require?
- Is the 2-dose hepatitis B series allowed for school attendance?
- Is the 3-dose Hib allowed for child care attendance?
- If an MMR or Varicella was given before the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, can I excuse the child from repeating the dose?
- If a child has had Varicella (chickenpox) do they need the shot?
- Does Oregon allow exemptions?
- When is Exclusion Day?
- Are children really excluded?

### Which shots does Oregon require?

Oregon requires vaccination against nine vaccine-preventable diseases, including:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Hib (*Haemophilus Influenzae type B*) – only for children under 5 years of age

There are additional vaccines that children are not required to have to stay in school or childcare, however experts agree that children should have them for optimal protection. These vaccines include:

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Hepatitis A
- Pneumococcal
- Influenza

Recommended ages and schedules vary by vaccine.

**Is the 2-dose hepatitis B series allowed for school attendance?**

Yes, as long as the first dose was given at or after age eleven years and the second dose is given at least four months after dose one the child will have met the necessary requirements. However, more specific criteria are listed in the package insert. Please refer to that document for clinical guidance.

**Is the 3-dose Hib allowed for childcare attendance?**

Yes, as long as the third dose was given at or after age twelve months the child will have met the necessary requirements. However, more specific criteria are listed in the package insert. Please refer to that document for clinical guidance.

**If an MMR or Varicella was given before the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, can I excuse the child from repeating the dose?**

No, unless the dose was received 4 or fewer days before the first birthday. If the child received a dose of MMR or varicella too early there are only three viable options: 1) repeat the inappropriate dose; 2) provide lab results showing a positive titer; or 3) the parent may sign a religious exemption.

**If a child has had Varicella do they need the shot?**

No. If a child has had varicella disease, a parent may check “yes” in the history of disease box in the varicella section of the Certificate of Immunization Status. An estimated month and year is also helpful, but is not required.

**Does Oregon allow exemptions?**

Yes, Oregon allows two kinds of exemptions: religious, signed by a parent or guardian; and medical, signed by a physician or the county health department.

## **When is Exclusion Day?**

Exclusion Day is always the third Wednesday in February.

## **Are children really excluded?**

Yes. Oregon Revised Statute 433.267 clearly requires the administrator of schools and facilities to exclude children who are not in compliance with immunization requirements. Administrators are only allowed to let children come back when the child is in compliance with the rules, according to the county health department. In February 2004 over 9,000 children were excluded.