

Frequently Asked Questions for Schools and Children's Facilities

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Are all schools and childcare programs required to track shots?

Yes, shots are required for attendance at all elementary, middle and high schools in Oregon, whether public, private, charter or alternative schools. Shots are also required for preschool attendance and for attendance at all Head Start programs and at all childcare facilities. Parents must complete a Certificate of Immunization Status for each child for the school or childcare.

Who has to report?

Public, private, charter and alternative elementary, middle and high schools, preschool programs, Head Start programs and certified childcare facilities are required by law to complete an annual immunization report for their county health department. The report is called a Primary Review Summary and it is usually due the second week in January.

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.

Why are shots required?

Shots provide protection against contracting serious diseases to the person who receives them. Shots also provide protection to classmates and teachers by reducing the number of people vulnerable to these diseases. When enough people are vaccinated, these diseases tend to stop circulating. Children are particularly vulnerable in a school or childcare setting.

Where can I get more of the Certificate of Immunization Status?

Contact your county health department for additional copies. They should mail them to you at no charge. If you have difficulties getting the forms you need, please call 971-673-0300.

If a child has had Varicella (chickenpox) 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.

Do I really have to exclude?

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.