

Changes to State Immunization Rules for Schools and Child Care

The **Washington State Board of Health (SBOH)** approved changes to **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 246-105** concerning school and child care immunization policy. These rules apply to all public and private schools and licensed child care centers in Washington State, including Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) providers.

WAC Updates Effective Aug. 1, 2020

- Requires **medically verified immunization records** for school and child care entry.
- Clarifies **conditional status** in regards to school and child care immunization requirements and implementation.
- Requires a new **Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS)** each year to re-certify the child's immunization records.

Under the new regulations, children may begin school or child care only if they receive all of the required immunizations they are eligible to receive and submitted **medically verifiable records** on or before the first day of attendance. Children without immunization paperwork should not start services in ECEAP classrooms until the required paperwork is turned in. These children are not considered in **conditional status**.

To minimize unintended barriers to those furthest from opportunity during a pandemic and the development or perpetuation of disproportionality in the enrollment process, contractors may request to place a child on an alternative attendance plan in order to enroll a child in ECEAP until they can get into an MD to begin a catch up series for immunizations. Contractors can reach out to their Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Specialist for more information and approval.



Supporting ECEAP Families Around Immunizations

ECEAP contractors can help families be ready for the beginning of the school year by:

- Encouraging families to enroll in MyIR, Washington's online immunization information system.
- Working with families to obtain a copy of immunization records from the child's primary care physician at enrollment.
- Enrolling in School Module in the Washington State Immunization Information System to be able to print medically verified records for the children enrolled in a program.
- Work with the DCYF ECEAP CQI Specialist to implement an alternative attendance plan to enroll and obtain necessary paperwork.

Resources

- Washington State Department of Health Immunization **Rule Change Reference Document**
- **Changes to State Immunization Rules for Schools and Child Care**
- **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Resource Page**



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES