

Communicable Disease Outreach

Volume 3, Issue 1

Disease Prevention Information for Child Care Providers

September 2013



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Communicable Disease Outreach Program

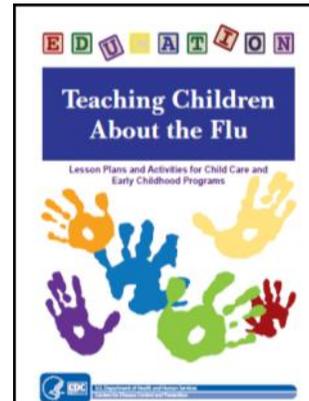
3020 Rucker Avenue, Suite 300
Everett, WA 98201

Don't Play Games with the Flu— Don't Catch it and Don't Kick it Around

Flu season is quickly approaching. Protect yourself and those around you. Here are some resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help you get ahead of the game this flu season:

Teach Children About the Flu

Click on the link below to view or print lesson plans and activities that can be used in child care and early childhood programs.
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/teachingchildrenflu.pdf>



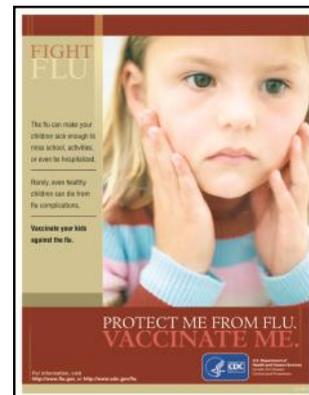
Give Information to Parents and Staff

This handout has lots of great tips on staying healthy during flu season. Check it out.
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday_preventive.pdf



Encourage the Flu Shot

The flu shot is one of the best defenses against the flu. Post this flyer in your child care to remind parents to protect their children. Another ready-to-post flyer is available on page 2.
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/protectme_girl.pdf





**SNOHOMISH
HEALTH DISTRICT**
WWW.SNOHD.ORG

A Message to Parents from Snohomish Health District

**Spread fun.
Not Flu.**

*Even healthy kids of any age can get seriously sick from the flu,
and they can spread it to family, friends, and others.*

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year.

Get Your Flu Vaccine. Not the Flu.
The flu benefit is a covered service for Medicare
and for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

For more information, visit <http://www.flu.gov>

C122899-1

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/spread-fun-print.pdf>

Please post this information on your parent board or in your classroom.



Immunization Tracking

Commonly asked questions...

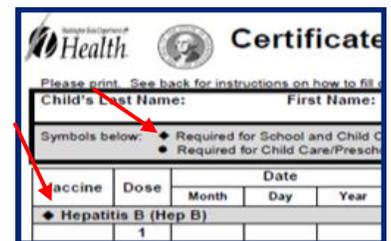
Child care and preschool staff help protect children against serious diseases every day. From sanitizing toys to excluding ill children, providers are constantly striving to keep children in their care healthy. One very important way you help to keep children healthy is to make sure children are up-to-date with their immunizations. By tracking children's immunizations, child care providers are not just protecting children from serious preventable diseases, you are complying with mandated rules and regulations in Washington State. But, sometimes, keeping up with all these rules can be a challenge. Below are some of the most common questions we hear regarding the task of tracking immunizations.

Am I required to enroll a child who isn't vaccinated?

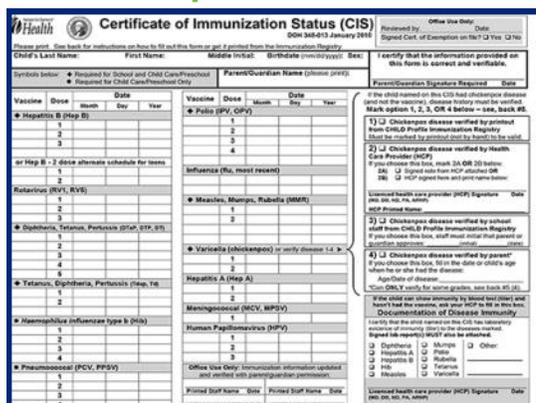
According to WAC 170-295-7020, centers "may have a policy that states you do not accept children who have been exempted from immunizations by their parent or guardian, unless that exemption is due to an illness protected by the American With Disabilities Act (ADA)." Although Family home child care and school-age program WACs do not address this question, the same rule may be applied. It is very important that your policy on immunizations requirements is clearly written in your parent handbook and in your health policy.

Does the child have to have all the vaccines on the immunization form?

No. Some vaccines listed on the Certificate of Immunization (CIS) form are recommended but not required for child care and preschool attendance. Required vaccines will have a symbol (a diamond or a dot next to them). Vaccines that do not have a symbol next to them are not required or tracked. Recommended vaccines that are not required for child care include Influenza, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A, Meningococcal (MCV) and Human Papillomavirus (HPV).



Can I accept a blank CIS form stapled to the doctor's vaccine record?



No. Preschools and child care facilities are required to use official Washington State Department of Health (DOH) immunization forms. A blank Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) can be downloaded from the Washington Department of Health (DOH) website by following this link: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/FormsandPublications/Forms.aspx>

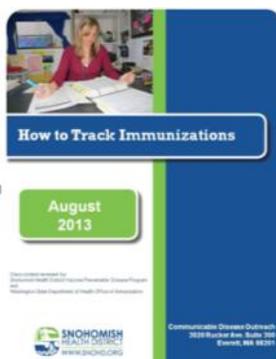
You can accept an old CIS form; you do not need to transfer the vaccines to the new form. However, children who do not already have a CIS form should use the most current form dated January 2010.

More immunization questions...

Where can I get help with tracking immunizations?

The Communicable Disease Outreach program offers help with tracking immunizations. Just call 425.339.5278 and ask for a consultation or a training. Our staff can come out to your child care and offer suggestions for a tracking management system, review CIS and COE forms, and answer your questions regarding exemptions and annual reporting. There is no cost for this service.

The Department of Health is also available to help with immunization tracking questions by phone or email. You can email your questions to a DOH immunization nurse at immunenurse@DOH.WA.gov.



Are there training resources on immunizations tracking?

Yes, the Communicable Disease Outreach has a class titled “**How to Track Immunizations.**” This course was written especially for child care providers. It reviews all of the ‘ins and outs’ of keeping track of immunizations in child care. To request a copy of the course document, email the Communicable Disease Outreach program at childcarehealth@snohd.org and it will be emailed to you. This class will be offered for STARS credits next year but the document is available at any time as a resource.

The Washington State Department of Health has an online class titled “**Immunization Requirements Training Video for Child Care, ECEAP, and Head Start/Early Head Start Health Consultants.**” This training can be found on the DOH website by following this link:

www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization.aspx



Does a health care provider need to sign an exemption form?

In most cases, yes. A licensed health care provider must sign the Certificate of Exemption (COE) for any medical exemption. In addition, as of July 22, 2011, parents or guardians wanting a medical, philosophical, or religious exemption must have a provider sign a statement on the COE confirming the parent or guardian received information on the benefits and risks of immunization. A provider may also write and sign a letter saying the same thing instead of signing the COE. A health care provider doesn't need to sign the form for parents or guardians who demonstrate membership in a church or religious group that does not allow a health care provider to provide medical treatment to a child.

Certificate of Exemption forms are available online on the DOH website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/FormsandPublications/Forms.aspx>

Annual Immunization Status Reporting

Washington State law (RCW 28A.210-110) requires some early learning programs to complete and file an Immunization Status Report each year by November 1st. Complying with this regulation is very important as it helps the state assess the vaccination rates of our children and determine how well children are protected. It also helps the child care or preschool maintain up-to-date records.

What does this report ask for?

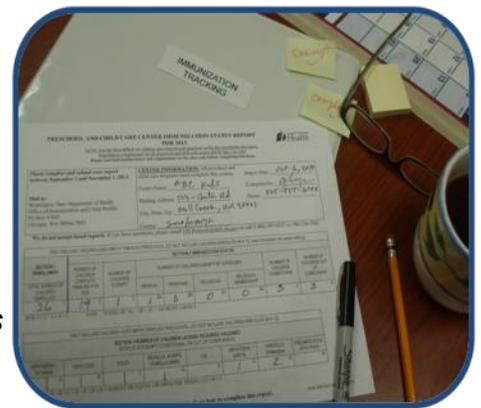
This report asks that providers tally how many children fall into each of the immunization status categories (complete, conditional, out of compliance, exempt). In each corresponding box, you write in the number of children that fit each category. Once you complete the form you return it to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Who is required to submit the Annual Status Report?

Programs required to file this Annual Status report include:

- Licensed preschools
- Preschools located at a K-12 school
- Licensed child care centers
- ECEAP contractors and Head Start programs, and
- K-12 Schools (public and private)

Licensed family child care homes or licensed school age programs do not have to submit this annual report.



Where do I find this form?

You can find the report, as well as instructions on how to fill it out, on the Washington State

Department of Health website at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/ChildCareStatusReporting.aspx>

The form can be filled out online.

Who can I contact if I need help filling it out?

Feel free to contact DOH directly by email at OICPSchools@doh.wa.gov or by phone at 360.236.3595.

In our next issue.... The Trouble with Bleach

Over the past several months, concentrated 8.25% bleach has been replacing regular 5-6% bleach on store shelves. This new bleach cannot be mixed using the same recipes that many child care providers have been using for years. To properly disinfect using the concentrated bleach, the manufacturer's instructions must be followed, which usually results in a much stronger bleach smell, a longer contact time, and a final rinse step. In our next issue we will discuss the various bleach concentrations, how to use the products properly, and what alternatives to bleach exist. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call us at 425.339.5278 with questions. We're happy to help!





2013 STARS Classes

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Distance Learning Classes

Snohomish Health District provides distance learning classes for Snohomish County child care providers on a variety of disease and illness prevention topics. These STARS-approved classes are being offered at **NO COST** this year. They are designed to take about 2 hours to complete. On the class start date you will receive the curriculum via email. You will have until the end of the month to complete and return the test and evaluation (either via email or US mail). Once the test has been reviewed, you will receive a certificate via email. Further detailed instructions will be provided when you register.

How Do I Register? It's simple! Email your name and the course or courses you wish to take to the appropriate email address below. Can't decide? Register for all of them and decide after you've seen the material!

NOTES: While it is acceptable to repeat classes previously taken, we strongly discourage repeating a class within a 3 year period and encourage taking a wide variety of classes. Due to staffing and time constraints, tests and assignments will be processed for providers who either *live or work* in SNOHOMISH COUNTY ONLY. Thank you for your understanding.

2013 Communicable Disease Class Schedule

To register, email childcarehealth@snohd.org

Start date	Title
Sep 3	Common Childhood Illnesses: Applying Exclusion Criteria
Oct 1	Teaching Illness Prevention to Young Children
Nov 1	Preventing Foodborne Illnesses in Child Care Settings
Dec 2	Preventing Reportable Illness

2013 Healthy Communities Class Schedule

To register, email cparker@snohd.org

Start date	Title
Oct 1	Healthy Menu Ideas New!
Dec 2	Promoting Health by Reducing Screen Time

Stay tuned for the 2014 class schedule coming out in December.

If you are on our newsletter distribution list, the class schedule will be emailed to you when it becomes available. Class registrations do not carry over from year to year. If you wish to receive the 2014 distance learning course materials, you will need to re-register for the 2014 classes, even if you were signed up to receive all the 2013 classes.



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425.339.5278
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asuarez@snohd.org

Environmental Health Specialist
Micha Horn
425.339.8712
mhorn@snohd.org

We are available by phone or to visit your child care. We can help with:

- Reportable Disease Control
 - Outbreak Investigation
 - Illness Prevention Advice
 - Exclusion Policies
 - Safe Food Preparation
 - Cleaning and Sanitizing
 - Pet Policies
 - Handwashing Practices
- And much more!

To notify the Snohomish Health District of a reportable illness, call 425.339.5278.

Communicable Disease Outreach Program

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