



School

Focus newsletter



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

RAISE YOUR RATES:

Conditional Status vs. Exemption

Reconsidering immunization exemptions could raise your school's immunization rate in a positive way. Before doing the Immunization Status School Report, look up students in CHILD Profile, the statewide immunization registry. Reconciling student record software (i.e. Pentamation, Skyward, etc.) with CHILD Profile will increase the amount and accuracy of immunization data, save time, and provide missing immunization histories for many students.

CHILD Profile is used by more than 90% of immunization providers in Washington and contains more than 54 million immunizations for over 6.1 million individuals of all ages.

The registry is useful for several reasons:

1. Immunizations not in parental records may be listed in the registry.
2. Parental permission is not necessary to access the registry or print a CIS form from CHILD Profile.
3. There may be an acceptable history of chicken pox disease to add to a student's record.
4. Agreements with other state registries can provide valuable historical information.
5. Additional information will result in higher, more accurate immunization rates and fewer exemptions.
6. Periodically checking CHILD Profile will verify that a student received required vaccines.



*Public Health partnering
with schools to protect the
children of Snohomish
County from vaccine
preventable diseases*

All schools can participate in the registry at no charge. Currently, only 28% of public schools and 7% of private schools utilize CHILD Profile regularly, especially when registering a new student.

The Snohomish County combined exemption rate for immunization is 5.58%. Only 0.5% of students claim religious or medical exemptions. This means 5% of the student population files a **personal reasons exemption**. Most of these students should more accurately receive a **convenience exemption**. Some parents find it more convenient to file an exemption than to furnish a complete immunization record.

Vaccine Preventable Disease Community Program

3020 Rucker Avenue, Suite 208
Everett, WA 98201

Immune.phn@shd.snohomish.wa.gov

Frequently once the exemption is noted there is no follow-up. This is an avoidable missed opportunity to bring a child to fully-immunized status. A brochure, **Immunizations/Considering Exemptions?**, detailing realistic consequences for students with a *convenience exemption* is posted on the Snohomish Health District website www.snohd.org. A copy of the brochure can be printed and furnished to parents considering signing a **personal reasons exemption**.

Their correct immunization status is **conditional, not exempt**. The parent then has 30 days to present the missing information or proof of receiving vaccines to the school.

Conditional status serves two purposes:

- 1) it ensures the child has been properly screened and their status communicated to the parent and
- 2) the school has appropriate documentation of their status in the event of a disease outbreak.



We are here to help you!

Mary Merrell, RN, BSN
425.252.5407

Leta Tarrell, RN, BSN
425.339.8676

Vicki Walton, BA
425.339.5258

When the school staff compare school records with CHILD Profile, a significant number have complete records or are within one dose of being fully immunized.

The majority of these parents want their children fully immunized. Providing the parent a copy of the CIS encourages them to take their children to their health care provider for the missing vaccination(s) since it usually only requires a single office visit. The school can work with the parent to successfully bring students up to fully immunized status without adversely disrupting registration or subjecting the student to exclusion from school.

Each school district must develop a process for tracking all students' immunization status and changes in status. It might be possible to work within your student record software to enter the vaccines found in CHILD Profile. If not, a simple data base, Excel spreadsheet or even a tickler system done by hand could keep your follow-up on track and help generate your report. Each year will be easier because of the accumulation of data; especially in regard to information that will carry forward and not change, like history of chicken pox disease or permanent contraindications to a particular vaccine.

Consistent, timely use of CHILD Profile can raise fully immunized rates and decrease exemption rates. Immunization is the best way to protect students and staff from vaccine preventable diseases and to maximize community immunity which protects those who cannot be vaccinated.

See Tracking down your child's previous immunizations factsheet, attached to this email.

Resources:

For a sample of a **School Susceptible List** where you record information on all exempted students (with religious, medical, or strong personal reason exemption by a parent who refuses any or all vaccines) go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/manualchap5.2a.pdf>

For a sample of a **School Susceptible List/ Need Follow-up** where you record "conditionally exempt children" working toward becoming fully immunized go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/manualchap5.2b.pdf>

For the entire **Immunization Manual for Schools, Preschools, and Child Care Facilities** go to www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/schools/school-manual.htm

CHILD Profile ■ 401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1000 ■ Seattle, WA 98104 ■ 1.800.325.5599 ■ FAX 206.205.4146
www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/childprofile