

Student Immunization and Life Threatening Health Conditions

Certificate of Immunization

Immediately upon enrollment in the district, the student's parent/guardian must provide proof of immunization status with a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS), approved by the Washington State Department of Health. The CIS will be a record part of the student's permanent record.

If, by the student's first day of enrollment, a student does not have the required immunization documentation, the student's parent/guardian may submit evidence of having initiated an immunization schedule, which will provide the student "conditional admittance" status. Students may attend under conditional status for a limited time. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the student's first day of attendance, the parent/guardian must provide any missing immunization(s) and/or provide documentation needed to complete the CIS. If a student needs additional doses to complete a vaccine series, he/she will remain in conditional admittance status for a maximum of thirty (30) calendar days after the next dose is due until the series is complete. Failure to submit documentation within these timelines will be sufficient cause to exclude the student from school.

Exemptions from Immunization

Any and all exemptions will be processed and recorded on a Certificate of Exemption (COE) as provided by the Washington Department of Health (DOH).

The district will grant exemptions from one or more vaccines for medical reason upon certification by a Licensed Healthcare Provider (LHP) that there is a medical reason for not administering the vaccine.

The district will grant exemptions for personal or religious reasons upon the parent/legal guardian's submission of a COE, as follows. If a COE states the parent/legal guardian is a member in a religious body or church with beliefs or teachings that preclude a child from receiving medical treatment from a LHP, the LHP signature on the COA is not required. If the COE claims a religious reason, but does not state that the parent/legal guardian is a member in a religious body or church with beliefs or teachings that preclude a child from receiving medical treatment from a LHP, the LHP signature on the COA is required.

With the exception of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, the district will grant exemptions for philosophical or personal reasons upon the parent/legal guardian's submission of a COE, signed by an LHP, stating that the parent/guardian has either a philosophical, personal, or religious objection to the immunization of the child and the LHP provided the parent/guardian with information about the benefits and risks of immunization. The district will not grant an exemption for philosophical or personal reasons from the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. The LHP may sign the form any time prior to the district's enrollment of the child. The district will accept a photocopy of the signed form or a letter from the LHP in lieu of the original form.

If a COE states the parent/legal guardian is a member in a religious body or church with beliefs or teachings that preclude a child from receiving medical treatment from an LHP, the LHP signature on the COA is not required.

The district will mark the permanent file of students who have exemptions for easy identification should the local department of health order that exempted students be excluded from school temporarily during an outbreak or an epidemic.

If the district does not receive proof of immunization status on a CIS or a COE upon the student's enrollment in school, the principal or designee will provide written notice to the parents/guardians informing them of:

1. The immunization requirements;
2. The potential that the student will be denied attendance unless documentation needed to complete the CIS or COE is provided within thirty (30) calendar days of the student's first day of attendance;
3. The procedural due process rights; and
4. The immunization services available.

Exclusion from School

Following proper notification, the school will exclude the student for noncompliance with the immunization laws subject to the appeal procedures or student expulsions (Policy 3241). Parents have a right to a hearing, provided they notify the school within three (3) days after receiving the exclusion order from the school principal. If the parent requests a hearing, the district will notify in writing the parent or guardian and school principal will be notified in writing of the time and place for the hearing and will present the case to a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent.

Date: 2-22-13
Tonasket School District
Revised Dates: 10.24.18; 2.8.19; 9.20.19